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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th: Talks on Extending Autonomy Begin 27 Jun

NC1906153294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 19 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, has announced that it has agreed in principle to begin negotiations on the establishment of autonomy over the remainder of the West Bank on Monday, 27 June.

After meeting for two hours today with Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Liaison Committee, Sha'th said that they agreed to hold the meetings alternately in Gaza and Jerusalem.

Sha'th pointed out that the date of each of these meetings will be set after consultation with Maj. Gen. Shahaq.

Sha'th added that he and Shahaq also discussed problems connected to the application of autonomy such as travel permits for the Palestinians and resuming the talks about Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. He explained that Israel has so far released only 1,200 detainees out of a total of 5,000 who should have been released in line with the agreement between the two sides. He said negotiations over the release of the others will be conducted during the next meeting with Shahaq.

Sha'th said he will meet in the near future with Israeli Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal to discuss the conditions of the detainees who have not yet been released.

The Palestinian official reported that Israel has approved the entry of the families of the Palestinian police, totaling 50,000 people, and also approved the return of 72 other Palestinian families who until now have been residing in Rafah's Egyptian sector. They will move to the village of Tall al-Sultan in the Gaza Strip.

Amnon Shahaq announced that Dr. Sha'th does not intend to visit Jerusalem tomorrow because he will be occupied elsewhere.

Sha'th has asked that the number of Palestinian workers who work inside Israel be increased. Israel formerly suspended the work permits of approximately 130,000 workers, except 10,000 workers from Gaza.

Jerusalem Municipal Limits on Agenda

TA2006093094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In their discussions on the interim agreement for the West Bank, Israel and the PLO will discuss determining the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, which will be outside the autonomy. Israel is demanding that the current municipal boundaries, determined in 1967, be maintained. In recent discussions in government forums, a proposal was made to ease the restrictions imposed on the entry of Palestinians from the West Bank into the city in return for a PLO agreement to make changes in the municipal boundaries in order to reduce friction between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem.

In a previous discussion on Jerusalem, held on 26 May, Prime Minister Rabin decided to prevent the establishment of new Palestinian political bodies and ban their policing activity in the city.

The prime minister instructed the Israel Police and the Shin Bet to closely monitor Orient House, the seat of the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem, and to immediately put an end to any illegal activity uncovered there. Over the past several days, security elements have reported that the preventive activity undertaken by the police and the Shin Bet regarding Orient House has led the Palestinians to "lower their profile" and curbed illegal activity in the building. [passage omitted]

In recent discussions between Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Faysal al-Husayni, the minister proposed that the parties draft a joint list of Palestinian institutions operating in East Jerusalem to serve as a basis for maintaining the status quo in the city, as promised by Israel in Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter of 11 October 1993. Israel promised to protect the functioning of all the Palestinian institutions in the city. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich Warns Syria of Waning U.S. Involvement

TA1906065594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States, Itamar Rabinovich, has warned Syria that the U.S. Administration will not in the future be as involved in the Middle East peace process as it is now. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Rabinovich—who is also Israel's chief negotiator with Damascus—urged Syria to seize the moment because the Americans will not continue to be interested in the process for an unlimited period of time. Rabinovich says he believes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come again to the region in the coming weeks.

With regard to peace talks between Israel and Jordan, Rabinovich said he does not expect a breakthrough as a result of King Husayn's visit to Washington.

The next round of talks with Jordan is due to get under way at the beginning of July. This, according to government sources in Jerusalem quoted by the ITIM news agency.

Interim Israel-Lebanon Deal Said Drafted

TA1906112294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Government elements have recently started drafting a detailed offer for an interim arrangement with Lebanon. The arrangement aims at attaining calm on the northern border, pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of the security zone, and establishing security arrangements as a first stage toward signing a peace arrangement and normalizing the relations with Lebanon.

The offered arrangement will be based on the principles Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has set for the negotiations with Lebanon. Israel will demand that the military capability of Hizballah and other rejectionist fronts operating against it from Lebanon be disassembled; that the Lebanese Army be deployed in south Lebanon; and that its ability to impose order be tested over a period of six months, after which the IDF will withdraw from Lebanese territory. Security and coordination arrangements between the IDF and the Lebanese Army will also be introduced. Israel will also demand that Lebanon make a commitment to maintain the well-being of SLA [South Lebanese Army] men and other Lebanese who collaborated with Israel.

The offer formalized at this time includes an outline of the security arrangements that will prevail along the border and of the apparatuses that will supervise the agreement. Apparently, a UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] unit will remain in the area. Senior Israeli officials have said that making an interim agreement with Lebanon will only be possible if progress is made in the negotiations with Syria. Lebanon has rejected an Israeli offer to launch security talks at the level of army officers because Syria was opposed.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the delegation for talks with Syria, arrived in Israel over the weekend for his daughter's wedding. Last night he met with the prime minister and briefed him on the progress of the talks with Syria.

Discreet negotiations were held over the past several weeks between Rabinovich and the Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim. Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, mediated by meeting each of the ambassadors separately. In the past, Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim held a series of secret meeting, but Israeli sources claim that they have not met for several weeks and only held indirect talks through the Americans.

A member of the U.S. peace team last week told WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK that, despite the negative statements from Jerusalem and Damascus, constant progress is being made in the secret channel between them, and that it is possible that a joint declaration of principles toward peace will be signed by the end of this year.

Israeli officials confirmed the remarks, but said that the talks make "positive but insufficient progress." Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim are trying to bridge the gaps between the Israeli and Syrian stands and prepare for a visit here by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but have not yet begun dealing with a detailed draft of a declaration of principles. Israeli sources said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has not allowed al-Mu'allim to make much progress. According to them, the progress on the Jordanian track made the Syrians very angry and, over the past two weeks, they prevented progress. [passage omitted]

Regional Economic Conference Examines Peace Process

46 Delegations Attend Meeting

LD1606125494 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 16 (MAP)—The regional economic development working group stemming from the multilateral Middle East peace negotiations started the proceedings of its 5th session here Wednesday [15 June] in the presence of 46 delegations.

The meeting, held for the first time in an Arab country, consecrates Morocco's active role in the promotion of peace in the Middle East. The previous meetings were held in Brussels, Rome, Copenhagen and Paris.

The Rabat meeting agenda highlights activities taken under the umbrella of the Copenhagen action plan which sets a work program in the short and medium term.

The meeting will examine the activities undertaken in several sectors since the last session and explore means of making further progress, said head of the delegation of the European Union which is chairing the 5th session Constantin Prevedorakis (Greece) in an opening statement.

He added that the session will also look into proposals for the monitoring of the action plan by the regional parties so that effective follow-up be assured and discuss guidelines for future activities in regional economic cooperation.

"The challenge we face is to lay a firm basis for the promotion of prosperity through regional cooperation in the Middle East", he said recalling that since its first session in 1992, the group has made substantial progress in pursuing its principal immediate goals: Transforming ideas and initiatives into practical proposals, establishing priorities, creating a framework for regional economic cooperation and building confidence among the people of the region.

The Copenhagen action plan deals with 35 development projects mainly in the sectors of transport, communications, energy, tourism, agriculture, financial markets and investment, trade, electricity. The carrying out of each project is entrusted to a country or a financial institution such as the World Bank.

The head of the US delegation Daniel Kurtzer whose country is co- sponsoring along with Russia the negotiations process said the Copenhagen action plan proved to be an important milestone in the progression from a stage of planning and discussion to one of implementation.

However, in spite of these positive steps, we must assess our work to see if we are doing all that we can at this time to advance prospects for regional economic development and cooperation, the US delegate said.

He also called for further efforts to include Syria and Lebanon in this important work. The two Arab countries have been boycotting the group since its inception arguing that no progress can be made in the multilateral negotiations before a noteworthy progress in the Israeli-Arab bilateral negotiations.

The US delegate pointed out further that the group should examine how to address the needs of the private sector and take advantage of their energy to advance regional economic development. He also stressed the importance of the projected establishment of a comprehensive database for the working group as it will offer linkages to the academic community, research institutes and the private sector.

The participants in the meeting, he said, should consider what sort of organizational structure for the group will be required to develop these goals and priorities. "The regional parties will certainly have to play a major role in directing the process", he said adding that the US plans to announce a new initiative related to air transportation.

The head of the Japanese delegation echoed the US delegate stressing the need to involve the private sector wherever possible. Economic development is not only the greatest reward of peace but also most effectively strengthens peace, he said.

The Japanese delegate also stressed the importance of the participation of Syria and Lebanon saying this participation "is essential if regional cooperation is to be fully promoted on a regional scale".

The Jordanian delegate on his part stressed the need to consider financing requirements of priority projects and renewed the idea to establish a regional bank or fund to bankroll these projects.

"Another requirement to enhance regional cooperation is to resolve the debt problem facing some of the regional parties", he said.

The Chinese delegate pointed out that economic development in the region must be sustainable and steady and should benefit all. "It is therefore important to formulate long-term and phased development programs", he said before calling for increasing assistance to the areas under the Palestinian self-government and other territories still under occupation through bilateral or multilateral channels to enable an earlier start of the reconstruction of Palestine.

He equally stressed the need to establish as soon as possible a regional research body of economic experts to work out medium and long-term plans for regional economic cooperation and identify priority projects.

Negotiator Evaluates Meeting

LD1606215394 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Concerning the international efforts to support the Middle East peace process, the proceedings of the fifth session of the multilateral working group, which has been charged within the framework of the Arab-Israeli conference with developing the countries of the Middle East region, continued this morning in Rabat. Like the previous proceedings, this session was held behind closed doors and lasted for more than five hours. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation taking part in this session held a news conference today in which it gave an initial evaluation of the meeting, which is expected to conclude its proceedings this evening. Concerning the subjects discussed in this morning's meeting, Muhammad Ishtayyah, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said:

[Begin Ishtayyah recording] We have listened to numerous reports dealing with different issues submitted by the sponsoring countries. In particular, we have listened to a report by the Spanish Government on the agricultural issue, from Japan on tourism in the region, a summary study from Germany on the issue of trade in the Middle East and its international ramifications, and also a report from the United States on the issue of training. We have also listened to a report from the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, a committee for coordinating aid to the Palestinian people, which convened in Paris last week. There were also numerous interventions from the different sides. There was a proposal presented by the European Community. Basically, it requested that more weight be given to the Middle East region in determining its priorities, as we said yesterday. The proposal has been modified many times, and the international dimension was retained. [end recording]

Committee Wraps Up 5th Session

LD1606223994 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The proceedings of the fifth session of the Middle East cooperation and economic development committee, which emanated from the multilateral talks, concluded today in Rabat.

Among the most important results of this session was the creation of a local committee at the regional level for coordination and follow up in the sphere of economic development.

[Begin recording] [Ra'uf Sa'id, member of Egyptian delegation] Among the most important results achieved in this meetings was that a decision was made for the first time on giving a principal role to the countries of the region, to the countries of the Middle East itself, to decide among themselves and by themselves the priorities which concern them on cooperation in the region, the ways for coordinating between these activities which take place in these spheres, and at the same ensuring the complete support of the international community.

Among the important results which have also been achieved is that there are important projects which would come closer to the implementation phases, i.e., transport projects in the Middle East, be it by road, railway, sea, or air. [end recording]

The Palestinian delegation expressed its satisfaction at the European proposal in a news conference which called for the creation of local committee at the regional level for coordination and cooperation in the development and economic sphere in the region.

[Begin recording] [Samir Halili, member of Palestinian delegation] All sides were determined to make this meeting successful, and determination for the existence and continuation of the international support for the Middle East peace process, and for the regional cooperation process. Everyone had the intention and determination to find a mechanism to support the multilateral talks and make it a vital and practical feature as soon as possible.

Morocco has had for a long time a principal role in the mediation and contacting between Israel, on the one hand, and the other Arab parties, on the other, especially Morocco's principal role in the issue of the Jerusalem committee, and also Morocco's principal role at the Arab Maghreb level.

In my view, the holding of the economic talks for the first time in the Arab World here in Morocco has great significance. According to what we have heard and according to our assessment, there would be a greater role for Morocco in the next phase in forming the peace process in the region, and in forming regional cooperation in the region. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Appeals to Yemeni Leaders To Stop Fighting

NC1606181894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The Arab League has again appealed to the Yemeni leaders to stop the fighting immediately in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 924 and in response to Arab and international efforts. It has called on them to begin negotiations immediately to safeguard the remaining resources of the fraternal Yemeni people.

An Arab League official has said that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is continuing his intensive efforts with all the parties concerned with the crisis, the UN Security Council member states, and the UN secretary general to work for implementation of Resolution 924.

The Arab League expressed regret for the noncompliance with the appeals for a cease-fire, affirming that it is necessary to stop the fighting in order to begin an effective dialogue to resolve the current Yemeni crisis.

Arab League Leader: War in Yemen Is 'Homemade'

AU1706140994 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 17 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Gudrun Harrer in Vienna; date not given: ""The War in Yemen Is Homemade""]

[Text] [Harrer] In Vienna you signed an agreement between the Arab League and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) on industrial cooperation. Is the Arab League now limiting its ambitions to the economic sphere after the permanent setbacks in the political sphere—the Gulf War, the civil wars in Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia?

['Abd-al-Majid] Our organization is, after all, an association of individual sovereign states, and we must not reduce this sovereignty in any way. Yes, there are joint political interests of the Arab states but, unfortunately, time and again there are also differing positions. Still, politics remains our main cause.

Yemen is certainly an example of misguided cooperation within the country. In my opinion certain elements have caused this fighting, for personal reasons and because of problems between individual parties.

[Harrer] Are you also thinking of groups outside Yemen, individual countries of the Arab League, to be more precisely—such as Saudi Arabia, for whose interests Yemeni unity is running counter?

['Abd-al-Majid] No, in my opinion the war in Yemen is homemade. There was no need of outside intervention. Just think of the ideological differences between the Marxist south and the conservative north. Unity, which was concluded in 1990, was incomplete, there has never been just one army or a single currency. What unity is that? Not even a military or an economic one.

[Harrer] When all other Arab countries support Yemeni unity, why then has the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is actually nothing more than a regional cooperation forum within the League, in a statement de facto accepted the breaking off of South Yemen?

['Abd-al-Majid] No, that statement is not that clear. It was only meant to say that unity cannot be forced upon one partner, which is also my opinion.

[Harrer] So no war by proxy? Media reported that Iraqis were fighting on the side of North Yemen, whereas Saudi Arabia has old resentments against North Yemen not least from the time of the Gulf War.

['Abd-al-Majid] I know nothing of Iraqis in North Yemen. No, this is certainly not the right approach to the Yemeni problem: First one has to stop fighting and then seek ways and means for reconciliation.

[Harrer] You have also repeatedly appealed for Arab-Arab reconciliation with Iraq.

['Abd-al-Majid] I have never been under the illusion that the problems with Iraq could be solved overnight. What I wanted to say was that we finally have to face these problems and that we must learn from past mistakes. This also implies to admit to faults and responsibility.

I said very clearly that in the case of Iraq, the fault was its aggression against Kuwait. This now means: Implementing the UN resolutions, recognizing borders, compensation for victims. Iraq is about to fulfill the resolutions, but not all of them yet.

[Harrer] Is it justified to maintain the UN sanctions?

['Abd-al-Majid] I have personally repeatedly demanded to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, not for political but for humanitarian reasons. The quicker Iraq fulfills all the conditions, the quicker the sanctions will be lifted.

[Harrer] What is the Arab League's position on the progress in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements? Do you feel left out?

['Abd-al-Majid] One thing people tend to forget is that in September 1991—even before the Madrid conference, which was held in October, the Foreign Ministers' Council of the Arab League adopted a resolution with only two out of 21 votes against, that welcomed the peace process. As I said, that was before the Madrid Conference, which proves the will for peace on the part of the Arab countries. Yet, Israel can, of course, not have the cake and eat it: This means, peace for occupied territories.

[Harrer] One subject, which, among others, also applies to your home country, is radical Islamism.

['Abd-al-Majid] Islam does not tolerate violence and terrorism. Thus, Islamism must be seen as a social, political, and economic phenomenon, and radicalism of this sort exists in non-Islamic countries, too. In Egypt, the situation is meanwhile under control.

[Harrer] Is there no alternative to the very violent way in which the cause of Islamism is waged—I am thinking of the many death sentences?

['Abd-al-Majid] Each country has its own way of dealing with terrorism. Yet, why should we accept the killing of innocent people while the criminals then claim human rights for themselves? We must first of all think of the victims.

Southern Yemen Seeks League Help for Cease-Fire

NC1806121894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Officials in south Yemen have asked the Arab League to keep up efforts on all levels to implement the League's 7 May resolution on the Yemeni crisis by enforcing an immediate cease-fire and starting a dialogue between the two sides. This came in a message the League received today. It was delivered by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the political bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

Assistant Arab League Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran told our correspondent that the League also received a copy of the message YSP Leader 'Ali Slaim al-Bid sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, urging him to work toward an immediate cease-fire in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 924.

'Imran added that the League is keeping up its good offices with the various Yemeni parties in the north and south, as well as with fraternal Arab states and the international community, to bring about a cease-fire. The League also wants to bring the two sides to the negotiating table to initiate a dialogue rather than fight.

He reiterated the League's stand on the Yemeni crisis and its call to end the fighting as soon as possible in order to enhance security and stability in Yemen.

UN Envoy Briefs Arab League Chief on Yemen

NC2006092994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the UN envoy who is trying to find a solution to the Yemeni crisis. They reviewed the latest developments in the crisis and the efforts being made to implement a cease-fire. The UN envoy briefed the Arab League secretary general on the results of his talks with the Yemeni parties and the Arab leaders he met during his visit. Ibrahimi also briefed him on the results of the talks with the North and South Yemeni delegations in Cairo last night to end the crisis.

An Arab League source stated that the meeting took place within the framework of the continuing coordination and cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations on the Yemeni crisis.

Islamic Affairs

ICO To Hold Ministerial Council Meeting in Tunis

LD1706171994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 17 Jun (SPA)—Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO], today said that the meeting of the Organization's Ministerial Council would be held next September or December in Tunis.

In a newspaper interview published in Tunis, he said that consultations are under way between the Organization and Tunisia to determine the time of the meeting.

He pointed out that the meeting would concentrate on discussing the situation of the city of Jerusalem within the framework of the peace process, which the ICO supports, in addition to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Refuses World Bank Offer

JN1906100294 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 18-19 Jun 94 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee was scheduled to hold a meeting yesterday to discuss recent developments, especially the situation in the autonomous areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after the Palestinians took charge. PLO quarters here, however, were surprised by the convening of a meeting for the Revolutionary Council. The Palestinian leaders who are still in the Tunisian capital, the headquarters of the Palestinian leadership, took part in the meeting.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned from sources in Fatah that President Yasir 'Arafat told the attendees, only 30 members, that he had met yesterday afternoon with a delegation from the World Bank. He said the delegation offered $10 million out of $42 million that were originally agreed upon at a meeting in Paris last week. 'Arafat said he turned down the offer.

'Arafat also asked the members of the National Authority Council to return to the homeland as soon as possible, stressing the need for the leaders to be among the masses. He praised Council member Furayh Abu-Middayn, saying Abu-Middayn was quick and positive in settling some important issues. 'Arafat stressed that the Fatah movement should remain united so that it can correct anything that could obstruct the activity of the National Authority agencies. He, however, emphasized the need to practice democracy as much as possible under pluralism.

Talking about other factions within the PLO, the Palestinian president said some of these factions have started to abandon their hard-line approach that opposes the peace process and are asking to participate in the National Authority Council.

According to some quarters within the largest PLO faction, 'Arafat had asked that the committees formed by the Revolutionary Council in its recent session begin working. Three committees will indeed begin working as of today, Saturday, in his presence personally. These committees are concerned with standardizing organizational principles, choosing qualified personnel, and popular committees.

'Arafat Asks for More International Aid

NC1806204094 Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 18 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asked the United States and Europe for more funds to help set up the new Palestinian authority in the autonomous Jericho area and Gaza Strip.

While delaying his trip to Jericho because of his organization's financial difficulties, 'Arafat also asked for speeding up the transfer of 42 million dollars promised in emergency aid, the PLO news agency WAFA said Saturday [18 June].

'Arafat made the requests in separate talks Friday and Saturday with ambassadors John McCarthy of the United States and Jean-Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste of France as well as with envoys from Greece, Germany and Belgium.

The international community has already promised 2.5 billion dollars to help launch Palestinian autonomy, including more than 600 million dollars for this year, but the PLO has complained that donors are hesitant.

A Palestinian official said 'Arafat is angry at the slowness in disbursing the 42 million dollars which international donors promised on June 11 in Paris to cover a deficit in the operating budget of the new authority.

Self-rule was launched on May 4.

A representative of the World Bank involved in the transfer of the sum is in Tunis, but only "for consultation" and "not for handing over the money," the official said.

A new meeting of donor nations is planned for July 10-11 in Paris, where the PLO leader is expected on July 6 to receive a prize from UNESCO.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he told 'Arafat here last Saturday that the PLO leader should be patient while ways are found to make sure the money is not wasted.

'Arafat Receives European Troika Ambassadors

LD1806174694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] President 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this morning received ambassadors of the European troika under the chairmanship of the Greek charge d'affairs, the ambassador of Belgium, and the ambassador of the European Commission.

President 'Arafat and the ambassadors discussed the need for providing necessary means of support by building the infrastructures of the Palestinian national authority in the Palestinian self-rule areas. He urged them to provide the necessary funds to start the rebuilding needed for these infrastructures.

Sha'th: 'Arafat in Jericho by End of Jun

NC1906181794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic GMT 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, said today that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jericho at the end of June.

Sha'th also announced that the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations will resume in one week to settle all the issues left unresolved by the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. Sha'th added that he agreed with Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, on convening the committee on 27 June to discuss the hand over of the rest of the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule earlier than planned.

Sha'th To Meet Israeli Counterpart, Visit Jerusalem

NC1606120394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 16 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority who is now in Gaza, will meet with General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation, at the (Ritz) border post tomorrow morning. During this meeting, the two sides are scheduled to complete negotiations over the problems that remained unresolved when they signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement in Cairo on 4 May.

In a statement to MENA, Sha'th, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, said that he will visit Jericho on Saturday to acquaint himself with the situation there and then go to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sha'th today held several meetings in the Gaza Strip with the UN Relief Work Agency, UNRWA, officials and discussed education problems in the strip. He also met with members of the so-called Civilian Administration, which does all government jobs in the Gaza Strip. He discussed with the head of the International Red Cross office the problems of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. He noted that he will meet later today with a number of Western consuls in East Jerusalem, who consider themselves to be accredited to the Palestinian National Authority, to discuss cooperation with these countries. He said that he will discuss with the French consul the garbage collection plan in Gaza, which will be funded by France.

Sha'th Leaves for Jericho

LD1906142794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Palestinian-Israeli talks have started in the Palestinian self-rule areas to settle the issue of hundreds of Palestinian detainees still in Israeli prisons, in addition to the issue of Palestinian deployment at crossing points, and completing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Within this framework, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's political adviser and minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian authority, today headed for Jericho, where he will meet with the head of an Israeli delegation.

Sha'th Calls PNA Meeting for Orient House

TA1906065294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Nabil Sha'th, who arrived in Gaza last week, will meet tomorrow in East Jerusalem with members of the Palestine National Authority [PNA] from the West Bank. Today he will meet with Major General Amnon Shahaq to discuss issues left unresolved in the Israel-PLO peace treaty. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] All the members of the PNA from the West Bank have been invited to tomorrow's meeting at the Orient House in East Jerusalem. These include Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Faysal al-Husayni. Other leading figures from the West Bank could also take part, such as Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation, and Hanan 'Ashrawi. Opposition figures have also been invited to the meeting.

Sha'th, who holds the diplomatic relations portfolio in the PNA also reportedly intends to visit the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount and churches in the Old City during his visit to Jerusalem. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 19 June adds: "Tzomet has called on the prime minister not to allow Nabil Sha'th to hold a meeting with the Palestine Authority members in Orient House in Jerusalem. Knesset Member Moshe Peled told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the ability to prevent this meeting will be the government's first test of the seriousness of its declarations concerning Jerusalem."]

Sha'th: Meeting Only 'Reception'

TA1906101794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th has explained that his meeting with members of the Palestinian Authority [PA] scheduled for tomorrow at Orient House in East Jerusalem will be a reception and not a working session or an official meeting. He told our correspondent Moti Amir that he will confer with the PA members in Jericho this afternoon to brief them about his meeting with Major General Amnon Shahaq, during which he will discuss the continuation of the negotiations on the implementation of the autonomy agreements. Dr. Sha'th said that a reception, and not an official meeting, will be held for him at Orient House. He added that he will pray at al-Aqsa Mosque and visit churches in East Jerusalem tomorrow.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has called on the prime minister to take immediate action to thwart Sha'th's plans to visit Jerusalem. He told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that such a visit would constitute a violation of the autonomy agreements.

The National Religious Party [NRP] and Moledet have joined the call to prevent the PA from holding a meeting in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht quotes NRP leader Zvulun Hammer as saying: Giving the PA a foothold in Jerusalem is tantamount to letting it trample on the State of Israel's honor. Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi said the Palestinians are making a mockery of the State of Israel, and that is why Rabin must prevent the meeting in Jerusalem.

'Finance Minister' al-Nashashibi Arrives in Jericho

TA1906113494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the autonomy's finance minister, crossed the Allenby Bridge and arrived in Jericho a short time ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that al-Nashashibi, a member of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO Executive Committee, will be the minister in charge of economic issues in the autonomous areas. Upon arriving in Jericho, he stated that he came to organize the economy of the population of the territories.

Views Economic Priorities, 'Arafat's Arrival

JN1906162394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member and official in charge of financial affairs for the Palestinian National Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jericho on 19 May; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of financial affairs for the Palestinian Authority: Today you arrived in Jericho. What would you like to say after a very long absence?

[Al-Nashashibi] I would like to say that this is one of the happiest days in my life. I extend greetings to our great people, who waited for our return and with whom we have waited to meet. This day will prompt me to do all that I can to fulfill my duty in a manner that satisfies my people, my consciousness, and my God.

[Mu'addi] What are the priorities in the economic field?

[Al-Nashashibi] Priorities in the economic field include rebuilding the infrastructure. There is of course an emergency reconstruction program, prepared through an agreement among the World Bank, the donors commission, and the PLO, particularly the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. This program is called the emergency program. According to that program, there are issues related to roads, transportation, water, solid waste treatment, agriculture, industry, tourism, education, and health. In my view, the private sector has to take responsibility in housing, tourism, agriculture, industry, and energy.

[Mu'addi] Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, you have not taken part in the economic talks [between Israel and the PLO]. Do you accept and approve of this [economic] agreement?

[Al-Nashashibi] No.

[Mu'addi] What are your reservations?

[Al-Nashashibi] That agreement was not based on my legitimate right to build a Palestinian national economy based on my national right to self-determination. Regrettably, that agreement considered Israel's interests at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people, who want to establish an independent economy based on the economic charter of peoples and states that gave all peoples the right to establish their national economy away from any foreign intervention. Accordingly, I think we have a legitimate right to establish this economy without having obstacles and restrictions imposed on us and this point should have been considered by the Israeli negotiators.

[Mu'addi] One final question. There are reports that Yasir 'Arafat is making his arrival here conditional on the financial assistance from the donor states?

[Al-Nashashibi] President 'Arafat has not made any such statements. The only condition he has set for his arrival is that he must be convinced that his mission will be successful. When conditions are appropriate, he will come here. Difficult financial conditions are one of the problems we are all facing.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of financial affairs in the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

Fatah Official on Settlers' Bid To 'Assassinate' Him

TA1806201194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Several shots were fired this evening at the car of Sami Abu-Samahdanah, one of the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip. The bullets struck the vehicle, but Abu-Samahdanah was unharmed.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Abu-Samahdanah lodged a complaint with the Palestinian-Israeli coordinating committee. He asserted that the shots had been fired from inside the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, in an attempt to assassinate him.

Israel Said Denying Entry to Labor Official

TA2006090694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Israel has so far prevented Dr. Samir Ghawshah, the official in charge of the labor portfolio in the Palestinian Authority; Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Mahir Ghunaym; and poet Mahmud Darwish from entering the autonomy area. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned this from Palestinian sources. Fadil Tahbub, member of the Popular Struggle Front, told our correspondent that Dr. Ghawshah, leader of the front, seeks to enter the autonomy area in order to turn his organization into a political party which will be able to run in the autonomy elections.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 20 June adds: "A senior security source told our correspondent Moti Amir that nobody is preventing Samir Ghawshah from entering the autonomy area. The source denied the Palestinian sources' claims that Israel is preventing Dr. Ghawshah from entering the autonomy."

["Dr. Ghawshah told our correspondent that the PLO has submitted a list of names of approximately 500 PLO members who are slated to arrive in the autonomy, including approximately one-third of the Fatah Central Committee members in Tunis. So far, Israel has not agreed to their request to enter the autonomy."]

Al-Qidrah Returns From Gaza; Talks To Resume

NC2006100794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador to Cairo and representative of the Fatah Movement, has said that Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume next week. The talks, he said, will address various topics not discussed in previous talks as well as the early transfer of authority to Palestinians in the West Bank and the deployment of Palestinian police and security forces in various West Bank towns and villages.

Speaking to MENA following his return from a brief visit to Gaza, al-Qidrah said that the Palestinians will move into Rafah checkpoint offices in the next few days and that visa procedures for visitors to Rafah have been coordinated with various Palestinian Authority departments. The first such visas will be issued in the first week of July, he stated.

Al-Qidrah said that he presented a detailed report to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat about the visit he and Dr. Nabil Sha'th paid to Gaza. Al-Qidrah added that he briefed Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmi on the situation in Gaza and on a number of points in the Cairo agreement with which Israel has failed to comply.

The Palestinian ambassador said that, during his visit to Gaza, he called on Israeli officials to fulfill the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in its entirety and release all detainees immediately.

Police Official Denies Torture Accusations

PM1706144494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Official Denies Accusations of Torturing Detainees in Strip's Prisons"]

[Excerpt] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Palestinian police official in the Gaza Strip has denied that detainees are tortured. The official said that these are unreliable allegations which have nothing to do with reality. The official was answering a question about statements made by Mu'tazz Hakim, whom the police arrested on 6 June at his residence in al-Nasr district—Block 60, Gaza City.

The official said that this person was not subjected to torture or any other violations. Proof of this is that the human rights association visited him during his detention.

But Kahil, who joined the police service recently to work in the criminal investigation section in al-Rimal station, spoke about the circumstances of his arrest and the torture he was subjected to during four days of detention. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Views Autonomy, Civil Rights

AU1706141594 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 16 Jun 94 p 7

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi by Thomas Datt; place and date not given: "The Arabs Are Not Incapable of Democracy"]

[Excerpt] [Datt] How does your commission [Palestinian Independent Commission for Civil Rights] work?

['Ashrawi] It combines the work of the ombudsman with that of state control. We want to ensure that there is a legal system and that it is applied in a uniform way. Basic rights and freedoms have to be protected. We supervise, of course, the work of the authorities, in order to prevent the abuse of power and the embezzlement of public funds.

[Datt] On what legal basis?

['Ashrawi] First of all, the decree that was signed by 'Arafat and obliges the authorities to respect the work of the commission is our basis. We have drafted our own statutes and the legal basis that is to be included in the Palestinian basic law. Afterward, we will not be subject to the executive and, in contrast to nongovernmental organizations, we have the opportunity to intervene.

[Datt] How do you want to cooperate with the opposition?

['Ashrawi] Our commission serves everyone in the same way. And I think that we will be respected by all people.

[Datt] But Hamas does not respect anyone at present.

['Ashrawi] We should be able to solve this problem, because we will protect the right to be clearly different. This guarantees the freedom of thought, the freedom of speech, the freedom to belong to different political parties—provided that this is done within the framework of the laws in force.

[Datt] You say that the relations between Israelis and Palestinians are "fatally close" and propose a separation, so that they can meet again later as equals.

['Ashrawi] Both sides suffered from the situation of dominance and oppression for many years. Of course, the victims are saying that it is far, far more painful to be a victim. However, the distortion of the system and the psyche of the oppressor is certainly not desirable. I neither want to be the victim nor the oppressor. Accordingly, we have to put an end to these abnormal relations, in order to be able to meet again as equals, because this is the only way in which the main reasons for the conflict can be eliminated. The Israelis still want hegemony over the Palestinians, but it only brings all the destructive elements of occupation to this new stage, too.

[Datt] I see the Palestinians in a dilemma here: They have to put an end to their dependence on Israel, but they also have orientate themselves by its model if they want to push through democracy. In the Arab world, democracy models are not very common.

['Ashrawi] I do not know why we, as Palestinians, should not develop a democratic system of our own and nevertheless be part of the Arab world. The Arabs are not incapable of democracy. In many countries, an evolutionary process is taking place. And I think that we can be the vanguard there. This is what Palestinians have always been. The people here never feared challenges and they have tried new things.

[Datt] Is there something that you would take over from Israel?

['Ashrawi] As a result of the forced relations, many Palestinians know Israel better than the Arab world. We know the oppressor from his best and his worst side. In our part of the world, Israel is the country from whose experience in the development of the state we can learn. Moreover, freedom would have to be mentioned, although it has only been implemented in a selective way, for example, the freedom of speech. However, we need the Arab world not only for economic or historical reasons, but also for political ones. There should be natural solidarity.

[Datt] And what do you expect from abroad?

['Ashrawi] We have so many needs. First of all, there is the comprehensive economic development program. We start from such an unfavorable position that the transition period will fail if we do not get massive allowances and relief programs.

[Datt] Are you satisfied with Bonn's support?

['Ashrawi] Frankly speaking: So far, I have not been satisfied with any kind of support, while, according to my experience, the people recognize the Palestinian people far more quickly than the governments and help them. Governments are always the last to react. [passage omitted]

Hamas Members Released; Leader Says No Infighting

NC1706155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Gaza, 17 Jun (MENA)—Amidst the joy, ululation, and chants of the Palestinian people, who still cannot believe that they have started their first steps toward liberation from the 27-year colonization, yesterday evening Israel released 368 Palestinian prisoners from a total of more than 1,000 who are supposed to be set free under the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Hasan 'Asfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks who returned to Gaza over a month ago to join the members of the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip, said in a statement to MENA that most of the released prisoners are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Foremost of these released prisoners are two of the leaders of the movement, Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih and 'Imad al-Faluji.

This is the first time that Israel has released Hamas and Islamic Jihad members.

'Asfur adds that they were officially informed by the Israeli authorities of the release of this number of prisoners, including 160 convicts.

Contradictory figures were quoted yesterday and today regarding the correct number of the released prisoners. These figures varied between 200 and 400 prisoners. Some people even claimed that the released prisoners did not exceed 130 men. 'Asfur said that all those released signed a "document of pledge."

This document contained—after it was drafted three times, according to Palestinian sources here—the following:

"I declare that I realize that this signature is a basic condition for releasing me. I also understand that this measure is being executed within the framework of the peace agreement signed between Israel and the PLO on 4 May 1994. Therefore, I promise to abandon all acts of terrorism and violence and to respect the law."

This is the first time that Hamas detainees have signed a document of pledge to release them after they received orders to do so from their leadership. However, more than 600 Palestinian detainees from various factions refused to sign the document and the Israeli authorities refused to release them.

Shaykh Abu-Musamih—who had been convicted to nine years in prison, three of which he had already served, and who became one of the Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip after its leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, was arrested—affirmed that, despite the fact that his movement will not participate in any of the self-rule authority's activities, it does have a red line that it will not cross. This line is not to allow internecine fighting in the Palestinian arena.

Shaykh Abu-Musamih mentioned that his movement does not object to participating in any institution or sector that serves the Palestinian people.

Shaykh Abu-Musamih said that the movement will not be turned into a political party, but it is studying the possibility of establishing a political wing. [passage omitted]

Hamas Loyalist on Future Policy, Ties With Authority

NC1906142694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1217 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 19 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, professor at Gaza's Islamic University and a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sympathizer, has explained the rules that will govern the movement's actions in the coming stage, that is when the National Palestinian Authority assumes power in Gaza and Jericho.

Al-Zahhar, a leader of the former Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon, said that the rules pertain first to Hamas' relationship with the Palestinian Authority and secondly with the Israeli occupation the status of which, as he put it, "has not changed."

In remarks to MENA's correspondent in Gaza, al-Zahhar said relations with the new Palestinian Authority are governed by several rules. First of all, there will be no infighting, but Hamas opposes curtailing the privileges of any Palestinian faction, especially those who made the intifadah bear fruit through their efforts, blood, and years in jail or exile.

Al-Zahhar continued: "We are not seeking power. I do not expect Hamas to vie for power because if it had really wanted power, it would have joined the plan from the beginning and acquired a respectable number of posts."

Asked whether Hamas will participate in the coming Palestinian elections, Dr. al-Zahhar said: "We will not participate in the Autonomy Authority at all. As we have always done, our participation will be through student councils, local councils, and professional associations. This will be our natural service to the Palestinian citizens."

Al-Zahhar concluded his remarks by declaring that Hamas will not lay down its arms until all Palestinian soil [kamil al-turab al-filastini] is liberated from the occupation and, as he put it, from the occupation's supporters.

PFLP, DFLP Debating 'National Salvation' Plan

JN1906111994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 94 pp 24, 20

[By Riyad Mansur in Amman]

[Excerpt] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have called for electing a new political leadership for the Palestinian people, rebuilding the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah on new foundations, as well as holding an Islamic-Christian conference to defend the Arabism of Jerusalem.

This is part of a draft plan for national salvation which is being debated by the cadres of the two fronts as a prelude to endorsing it within the framework of their unionist plan. This constitutes a step along the road of unity between the Palestinian left and its democratic and revolutionary forces. The program asserts that the two fronts are willing to set up an alliance under this program with all forces in the Palestinian arena. [passage omitted]

PFLP, DFLP Included in List To Get Entry Permits

JN1806075794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jun p 12

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The Israeli government has approved the entry of up to 600 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) personnel including all members of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) in preparation for the expected entry of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian autonomous territories, PLO sources said Friday [17 June].

The Israeli-approved list, which includes PLO activists from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, is the first to include members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Both groups reject the peace process.

Up to 400 names of PLO activists including members of women's organisations and medical organisations and administrative officials were approved Thursday and up to 100 more were passed through Gaza-based PLO officials to Tunis on Friday.

The PLO had submitted large lists to the Israelis and now they are flowing back to Tunis. Most members of the PCC were also given clearance by the Israeli authorities by Friday.

There was, however, a "B list" and "C list," according to PLO sources in Amman. These were still subject to further security checks by Israelis and in the case of "list C"—which contained the names of those who were refused entry. "The PLO sources in Amman did not have the names of the people refused entry. [quotation marks as published]

The names included in the list of 600 are both from Gaza and the West Bank and include several hundred Fatah-affiliated activists, independents, about 25 FIDA members, 19 members of the PFLP and a handful of DFLP members.

Former militant activists and political prisoners expelled by Israel are among those whose names were approved.

The timing of the approval is in synchronisation with the expected entry of Mr. 'Arafat and an effort to make the Palestinian National Authority operational within the next few weeks.

The timing of Mr. 'Arafat's entry, initially tipped to have been on June 5, is still uncertain. Many PLO officials now say that it will not be until after the July 6 ceremony in Paris in which the PLO Chairman and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will receive a special U.N. prize for their role in the Middle East peace process.

International funding is among the points of contention said to have delayed the PLO chairman's entry into Jericho and Gaza. World Bank officials were in Tunis to discuss the channelling of funds. Mr. 'Arafat is said to be angered by the World Bank's insistence that the funding be given directly to government agencies or projects.

PFLP Organizes Antipeace Demonstrations

TA1706193094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Yoram Kohen]

[Excerpts] Mass demonstrations against the peace agreement were held today in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The demonstrators also called for the release of all Palestinian prisoners. Violent clashes between Hebron residents and soldiers took place today against the background of the growing tension surrounding the prisoner release. Our correspondent Yoram Kohen reports:

What may have looked like just another demonstration for the release of all the Palestinian prisoners was actually more than that. Today's demonstrations in Jericho were really a protest against the peace process. This afternoon, over 2,000 supporters of the rejectionist organizations, mostly from George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], gathered to protest the Gaza-Jericho First agreement while demanding the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners. The demonstration marched uninterrupted down the town's main streets. Palestinian policemen were prepared for the event but did not intervene.

Earlier, after Friday prayers, hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters demonstrated in the town for the same reasons. The Hamas activists, however, had a different slogan. They shouted that Islam is the solution. [passage omitted]

Residents of the Gaza Strip also demonstrated today over the prisoner issue. The demonstrations have been held every day for a week now. The rally was organized by the PFLP. The residents are furious with the Palestinian leadership and claim it capitulated to Israel on this issue.

Nabil Sha'th said today that the negotiations on the release of those prisoners who still remain in jail will start at the beginning of next week. Up till now, approximately 1,300 prisoners have refused to sign a commitment to stop terrorist activity. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Human Rights League President Assassinated

LD1806122394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] The security services have announced that Mr. Youcef Fathallah, a lawyer and president of the Algerian Human Rights League, was shot and killed at his office this morning, located at the Emir Abdelkader Square in the center of the capital. The deceased was 64 years old.

No Claims of Responsibility for Murder

NC1806145694 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Algiers, June 18 (AFP)—The president of the Algerian Human Rights League (LADH), Youcef Fathallah, was shot and killed in his Algiers office Saturday, security officials said.

The officials gave no further details but witnesses said Fathallah, 64, was shot by a group of men who stormed into his office on Emir Abdelkader Square in central Algiers.

The president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), Abdennour Ali-Yahia, later appealed for an end to months of bloodletting in the north African state.

Ali-Yahia told AFP he had enjoyed "very good" relations with Fathallah, a lawyer and a member of the commission set up to investigate the June 1992 assassination of then-president Mohamed Boudiaf.

As a member of the commission, Fathallah had called for the closure of special internment camps set up in the Sahara desert for Islamic fundamentalists. He had headed the human rights league since 1991.

Fathallah was the fourth prominent Algerian killed this month following the assassinations by suspected fundamentalist militants of the rector of Bab Ezzouar University, Salah Djebaili, the chief of the government customs service Abdallah Moussouni, and journalist Ferhat Cherkit.

Nobody had claimed responsibility for the killing by mid-Saturday afternoon.

"The guns must fall silent, the blood must flow no more," Ali- Yahia said, adding that could only happen through dialogue between the authorities, the Islamic movement and political parties which received strong representation in the December 1991 election.

Such parties would include former sole ruling party the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), he said.

'Terrorists' Killed in Mid-June by Security Forces

LD1806201694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] The security services announced today that they eliminated 18 terrorists between Tuesday and Thursday in Jijel, El Tarf, and the capital Algiers, and that they have recovered quantities of weapons.

EU Delegation Hears 'Wish' for Economic Ties

LD1906140694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A delegation of European experts ended its official visit to Algeria today. It will be conveying to the European Council Algeria's strong wish to build partnership relations that would bolster the existing cooperation between Algeria and the European Union [EU] and open several opportunities for exchanges awaiting the establishment of a free-trade zone, as is the case with Morocco and Tunisia. Here are more details from our reporter:

[Correspondent] The delegation of European experts today ended its three-day tour in Algeria. The delegation held several working sessions with senior Algerian officials, the first of which took place yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the delegation was received by Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs, and held a meeting with a delegation of Algerian experts led by the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Algerian delegation included representatives of vital sectors: industry, energy, trade, and agriculture. The meeting was aimed at reaching a partnership agreement between Algeria and the EU in various sectors prior to the establishment of a free-trade zone similar to those that the EU currently has with Algeria's neighbors, Tunisia and Morocco.

These talks, which are considered exploratory in nature, were followed yesterday evening by meetings that included the finance minister, the minister of small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the governor of the Algerian Central Bank. The head of the delegation of European experts stressed that the EU gives Algeria all opportunities on an equal basis with its neighbors and the states of eastern Europe. He also said that the partnership agreement that the two sides are working on would allow for exchanges in various economic spheres.

It is to be recalled that this round of talks will be followed by another round next autumn to finalize the partnership agreement that Algeria is seeking with the EU.

Foreign Minister Views Country's Role in OAU

LD1906154894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] The 30th OAU summit took place in Tunisia a few days ago. Algeria played a role in the treatment of two fundamental issues during the summit: Arab-African cooperation, and the Western Sahara issue.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri made the following statement to television on these two issues.

[Begin Dembri recording] Arab-African cooperation is an issue requiring mutual analysis. The ministerial committee has not held a meeting about this for quite a few years. Algeria has played an important role in reviving this committee, and we asked for the next meeting to be held in Algeria as soon as possible. Africa has indeed contributed to several Arab issues, including the Palestinian issue. Today it seems to some Africans that the Arabs have no intention of encouraging Arab-African dialogue. That is why we are playing this leading role to strongly adopt the idea a new African-Arab meeting.

Regarding the Western Sahara issue, the UN plan details a number of conditions about the way the parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario], should achieve rapprochement and reach an agreement regarding the pending issues, including determining the number of those entitled to vote, identifying them, organizing the election campaign, etc. There is also the issue of where the Moroccan administration and the Moroccan troops should be based during the referendum? Then there is the issue of the guarantees which should be provided after the referendum. The UN plan does not treat or solve all these points. In fact, the plan itself stipulates a direct dialogue between the two parties and final talks on these points. So far this has not taken place.

We have alerted the African countries—and, thereby, world public opinion—to the need to treat these points before the referendum. [end recording]

Dembri Says Elections May Resume in 3 Years

LD1906102994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] There is great hope that the foundations of concord will be established during the coming months now that the institutions of the transitional phase have been put in place, especially in that dialogue is continuing with all sides—including those who continue to refuse to take part in the aforementioned institutions.

This was stated by Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, in an interview with an Al-HAYAT correspondent in Tunisia that was published today.

During this interview, Dembri indicated that the resumption of the electoral process is planned in three years' time; however, the date could be moved forward if conditions allow.

Egypt

Cairo Hosts Talks on Yemen Crisis

Yemeni Delegation Arrives

NC1706151394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—A Yemeni parliamentary delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit of several days to Egypt.

Delegation leader Yahya Mansur Abu-'Uthman stated that the visit falls within the framework of the efforts of the legitimate Yemeni authority to brief the brothers in Egypt on the current situation in Yemen. He added that the delegation will meet during this visit with Egyptian officials and discuss bilateral parliamentary relations, the situation in Yemen, and the dangers facing Yemeni unity.

The three-member delegation will next visit Libya, Sudan, and Djibouti to present the Yemeni view of the ongoing war in Yemen.

UN Envoy to Yemen Arrives, Comments

NC1706191894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—The UN secretary general's envoy to Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit as part of his consultations and efforts to stop the fighting in Yemen.

President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to receive the UN envoy to discuss the latest developments of the Yemeni crisis and the tense situation there.

Brahimi will also meet Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to follow up his consultations on the crisis.

In an arrival statement, Brahimi voiced his profound regret at the continuation of fighting in Yemen and at not consolidating Security Council Resolution 924 with a cease-fire between the rival parties. He confirmed that his efforts are continuing to achieve this goal.

He said that he submitted a proposal to the brothers in north and south Yemen yesterday and today that each side appoint its representatives to discuss setting up a mechanism to consolidate and supervise a cease-fire accord and that a meeting be held between these parties in Cairo if they agree.

He explained that the proposal was the result of various talks and counterproposals from the two sides during which they accepted the idea of setting up this mechanism and agreed that the meeting be held in one of the Arab capitals, including Cairo. The mechanism, he added, should begin with a joint military committee made up of representatives from Arab and other countries.

He noted that the two parties' stances are still far apart and that we are trying to establish an efficient groundwork to start direct talks. He said his mission took 15 days because the two sides engaged in proposals and counterproposals. He added: We must sit and explore the possibility of reconciling the two sides and reaching an agreement that might not be implemented.

The UN envoy expressed his hope that firing will stop immediately if the brothers in Yemen agree on this idea. He said that if an agreement is not reached or if the brothers in Yemen feel that such a meeting is not suitable at present, he will move on to New York after completing his consultations in Cairo.

Brahimi concluded his statement by saying that the brothers in south Yemen informed him of their consent to the proposal and that he is awaiting a response from the brothers in north Yemen, which he expects to receive tonight or tomorrow morning, Saturday.

UN's Ibrahimi Meets Mubarak

NC1806111394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Lakhdar Brahimi, the special envoy of the UN secretary general who is investigating the Yemeni crisis. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the session.

Following the meeting, Minister Musa said that Egypt's position, as has been stated by President Mubarak, is that an immediate cease-fire should be observed in Yemen, because continued fighting is detrimental to that country and its unity.

Minister Musa said that a cease-fire would give dialogue a chance to begin and a solution to be found. The longer the fighting continues, the slimmer the chances of preserving Yemen's unity and interests. It is in the interest of all Arabs to see an end to the fighting in Yemen. This is a message that has been relayed to all the warring parties and expressed repeatedly by President Mubarak, Minister Musa stated.

For his part, Brahimi said that he was honored by his meeting with President Mubarak, noting that the meeting is part of the consultations he is holding with various Arab officials concerning the Yemeni crisis. He added that his visit to Egypt is the last stop on a tour that took him to a number of Gulf countries.

The UN envoy said he appreciates the time President Mubarak spent with him discussing the Yemeni crisis. Brahimi said that President Mubarak told him Egypt takes an interest in the crisis out of concern for regional stability.

Brahimi said that President Mubarak expressed a view shared by many Arabs and Yemenis, namely, that the fighting in Yemen should stop and that disputes should be worked out through dialogue rather than violent means. This is all I can say for now, Brahimi noted.

South Yemenis Meet With Ibrahimi

NC1906112394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met today with a group of senior south Yemeni officials led by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister of the self-declared government in Aden.

Brahimi said the meeting is part of the efforts being made to establish a cease-fire and set up the necessary mechanism for its verification.

Al-Asnaj said that Egypt's position is continuing to be that of a big brother concerned about the stability of the Arab region and eager to protect pan-Arab security. He noted that President Husni Mubarak has repeatedly tried to achieve peace and end the fighting in Yemen.

Al-Asnaj said: We are responding, but Sanaa is not, to the voice of reason and the virtuous call made by President Mubarak, underlined by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan of the United Arab Emirates, and expressed by the Saudi Government.

He added: If a delegation from Sanaa comes here committed to the requirements of peace, Security Council Resolution 924, and the call of conscience that prohibits a Muslim from killing his Muslim brother, it will find a full response from us.

Al-Asnaj expressed hope that the Sanaa delegation will arrive and be able to make a decision that will be binding on officials in Sanaa.

He said that the Aden delegation will maintain its contacts with Brahimi. We are anxious to assist his mission and make it successful, he said.

He said the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" will remain in constant touch with the envoy of the UN secretary general to advise him on developments. He added: It was natural for us to come to Cairo to continue the talks to restore peace in Yemen and to observe Security Council Resolution 924, which calls on the concerned parties to stop firing immediately. We have expressed readiness to implement the resolution as soon as possible, but the government in Sanaa keeps evading the resolution and refrains from complying with it.

Al-Asnaj said Sanaa has to abide by the requirements of the Security Council resolution, respond to the world community's will, and end the ongoing aggression against defenseless Yemenis.

He noted that more than a month ago Sanaa said that it was a few kilometers away from Aden and that it would enter the city. He said that Sanaa will find in Aden strong resistance, valiance, and steadfastness because the entire south rejects invasion and occupation and views Sanaa troops as an occupation force that lacks any legitimate justification for its genocidal war.

He said that Aden's separation announcement reflected the people's right to self-determination. If Arab political recognition has not yet been announced, he said, it is because the fraternal countries are evaluating the situation. I do not think this will take long, he said.

Meanwhile, Lakhdar Brahimi said that if a delegation from Sanaa arrives in Cairo today, he will meet with it separately. A meeting between the northern and southern delegations, he said, will depend on the results of the talks with each side individually.

Southern Yemen Official on War's Effects

NC1906131794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Anis Hasan Yahya, speaker of the provisional parliament recently established in Aden, today commended the efforts that Egypt, under President Husni Mubarak's leadership, is making to resolve the Yemeni crisis. He said that during his meeting with Egyptian officials he felt that they were anxious for a cease-fire in Yemen to safeguard the country's future.

He remarked that the war has created new, undeniable facts influencing Yemeni unity and tragic conditions that do not serve the country's interests.

The south Yemeni official added: Nevertheless, we are still taking the Yemeni people's united interests into account. We are advocating a different form of unity and will leave its discussion to the negotiators.

Yahya continued: At any rate, we are seeking to prevent further destruction in Yemen.

He affirmed that the problems that will surface after the war ends will be bigger than the war itself. Noting the adverse effects that the war has had on the south Yemenis' normally calm disposition, he said it is necessary to restore that disposition.

Southern Yemeni Official Meets Musa

NC1906141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a visiting south Yemen delegation led by Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Muhammad said that during the meeting they discussed implementation of Security Council Resolution 924 and Egypt's role, particularly before the crisis erupted and during the fighting, and all of President Mubarak's appeals and stances.

He noted that they also reviewed the efforts being made by Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, especially his meeting today with a south Yemen representative on the committee that will discuss a cease-fire. He said: We agreed on this proposal, which the representative of the UN secretary general has submitted and we are ready for this meeting. He noted that a delegation representing the other party is expected in Cairo from Sanaa. He said that the representative of the UN secretary general is exerting efforts to bring about a cease-fire, noting that this is the most urgent issue at present. He pointed out that if a cease-fire is reached, the discussion between the two parties will focus on forming a delegation to debate the other issues. He said that a meeting between the southern and northern delegations hinges on a cease-fire and Sanaa's compliance with Security Council Resolution 924. He said that Sanaa is trying to circumvent the issue and mark time. He said: We will turn to the Security Council to pass a new resolution deterring any party from violating Resolution 924, adding that right now this is what is required. Muhammad said that we will decide whether or not to go the Security Council in light of the contacts being made by UN Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

Muhammad said that fierce fighting continues and is focusing on encircling the Aden Governorate, and on finding loopholes to make the public feel that Aden is coming under an offensive. He noted that courageous resistance is confronting the attackers and things are beginning to change, particularly in the governorates of Shabwah and Lahij. He said that popular resistance has begun in these governorates. He noted that Aden has a cause adding: We are a recognized entity and are facing an invasion and occupation and our homes are being destroyed. He said: We have a right to request aid to defend our lives and future. He pointed out that the countries that supply south Yemen with arms are countries that support right and respect neighborliness, peace, and stability in the region. He said that these are Arab and friendly countries. He stressed that the war will yield other results and that negotiations will determine the Yemeni future, noting that the future will not be the same as it was before the war. He emphasized that unity cannot be imposed by force, noting that when we established unity it was agreed upon voluntarily. He said that regrettably this unity was destroyed from within by forces that do not want unity and who believe that unity is blood and violating the rights of others. He said that a unity that is not based on sound and principled foundations cannot survive because rockets and guns have destroyed this fragile unity.

Musa Comments on Meetings

NC1906133394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said after his meeting with the Yemeni delegation that Lakhdar Brahimi, special representative of the UN secretary general, is currently making contacts with the parties involved in the Yemeni dispute and that these contacts will continue all day.

He added that today's meeting was held to exchange views and listen to the Yemenis' viewpoint. He pointed out that the Egyptian contacts are independent of those being made by Brahimi and that they aim to spare Yemen the misfortunes of a continued war and help establish a cease-fire and begin a dialogue.

Musa said that a north Yemeni delegation will arrive in Cairo today.

Touching on his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy, he said that it concerned the envoy's special mission in Sudan. He added that views were exchanged on the situation there.

Musa explained that Egypt's stance is clear and that it emphasizes the need to preserve Sudan's territorial integrity, despite our political differences with that country. However, preserving Sudan's territorial integrity is an important matter that is part of mutual respect and safeguarding the rights of all the Sudanese people, he added.

North's Basindwah Stops in Cairo

NC1906153194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah stopped at the Cairo airport this afternoon en route from Sanaa to London. It should be noted that London is the first leg of a European tour by the Yemeni minister.

Northern Yemeni Delegation Arrives

NC1906153094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—A Yemeni delegation led by 'Ali Mansur Rashid, member of the standing committee of the General People's Congress, arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this afternoon. In his arrival statement, the Yemeni official said that this visit is within the framework of efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 924. He said: We are happy to visit Cairo, which is the haven of all Arabs. He noted that he is carrying a message from the Yemeni Government to Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen, who is currently in Cairo. Rashid pointed out that the situation is creating optimism and that they have come as representatives of two sides of the coalition parties in the Republic of Yemen, in addition to the Yemeni Socialist Party. [as received]

Rashid said that the delegations will discuss reviving and forming a military committee to monitor the cease-fire, noting that the delay in forming the committee is due to the south's intransigence. Concerning the possibility of requesting Arab forces to help monitor the cease-fire, he said that the situation has not yet reached that point and that it is still confined to the framework of the Yemeni state. He added that it has not ruled out the possibility of the parties' seeking the help of Arab forces.

Salih Sends Message to Mubarak

NC1906183994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Yemeni official expressed his pleasure at visiting Cairo, adding that he is carrying a message for President Husni Mubarak from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. The message deals with the current situation in Yemen and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The Yemeni official was received upon arrival by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hammam, and members of the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo.

South Sees 'No Positive Results'

NC2006060994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, appointed foreign minister of the self-declared Democratic Republic of Yemen, has stated that the South Yemen delegation will leave Cairo today to resume its tour of the Arab Maghreb states after it became apparent that Lakhdar Brahimi's meeting with the Sanaa delegation produced no positive results. Al-Asnaj praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to end the tragic war in Yemen.

Ibrahimi Ends Mediation Effort

NC2006083194 Paris AFP in English 0732 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 20 (AFP)—A UN special envoy on Monday [20 June] announced the end of his mediation effort here between the warring Yemeni sides after failing to broker a ceasefire in their civil war.

Former Algerian foreign minister Lakhdar Brahimi told AFP "there will be no meetings today with the Yemeni parties" after a fruitless day of discussions on Sunday.

Brahimi said he would meet Arab League secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid before leaving on Tuesday for New York, when he will report back to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

He had met separately with the northern and southern delegations on Sunday, but they refused to hold a joint session and there was no agreement on how to set up a ceasefire mechanism.

The southerners later announced that they were pulling out of the talks because Brahimi's meeting with their rivals had failed to produce results.

The southerners also charged that the northern team had no mandate to agree to a ceasefire.

Seventy-nine people had been killed and 248 wounded by late Sunday in a four-day barrage of the southern bastion of Aden by northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Brahimi was sent on a fact-finding mission in line with a UN Security Council resolution adopted on June 1 calling for an immediate ceasefire.

The north has insisted that a joint military commission should be set up to oversee a truce in the war which broke out on May 5.

But the south has accused Sanaa of playing for time in the hope of continuing its assault on Aden, capital of a breakaway state declared by southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 21.

Mubarak Returns From OAU Summit, Geneva

NC1706160294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, Mrs. Mubarak, and the delegation that accompanied the president during his visit to Tunis to attend the OAU summit and to Geneva to receive the UN population award for 1994 returned safely to the homeland this afternoon.

President Mubarak has decided to donate the money award he received from the UN to the Ministry of Local Government. The money will be used to set up a number of family planning centers in the Upper Egyptian villages.

Mubarak on African Leaders' Praise for Egypt

NC2006073094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said that all the African leaders have praised Egypt's relations with all the countries of the world and the international organizations that helped to calm the situation in some areas and to begin a new era in relations through dialogue and understanding.

In statements to the weekly newspaper MAYU today, President Mubarak added that these African leaders with whom he met in Tunis during the recent African summit also praised the decision to establish a mechanism to examine conflicts by peaceful means and the efforts to reduce African debts.

He said that Egypt's status among the African states has greatly been enhanced, noting that all the African states with whom he met in Tunis thanked Egypt for the large role and sincere effort it undertook to solve the problems of the continent during Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU in the past year.

President Mubarak added that all the African leaders have felt the genuineness of the efforts Egypt has made to resolve the continent's political and economic problems, particularly border problems, existing tensions, and internal problems in some states.

Regarding the Nile water and the danger threatening it as a result of the corpses dumped in it from the Rwandan war, President Mubarak reassured the people of Egypt that there is no danger at all, noting that the Victoria Lake water represents no more than 10 percent of the water that reaches Egypt. He said that the water is purified and cleaned by natural and geographical factors in the course of its long journey. He affirmed that Egypt is keen to safeguard its people's health, and that this issue is being carefully monitored by the pertinent departments.

Musa Received by Maltese Officials; Returns Home

NC1806064094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Valletta early this morning after a visit of several days to Malta.

During the visit, Musa delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Maltese President Mifsud Bonnici, and another from Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to his Maltese counterpart Eddie Fenech Adami.

Musa also held talk with the Maltese foreign minister on bilateral relations, cooperation among Mediterranean countries, the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other issues of mutual interest.

He also signed an executive program for technical and cultural cooperation between Egypt and Malta.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Moscow

NC1906191194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—A parliamentary delegation led by Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, left Cairo for Moscow this evening on a five-day visit to Russia.

The delegation will hold talks with a Russian parliamentary delegation to promote relations between the two countries, particularly in the parliamentary fields. The delegation is comprised of Dr. Sa'd al-Khawaliqah, chairman of the People's Assembly Transport and Communications Committee, and Ahmad Khayri, People's Assembly member and secretary general of the National Democratic Party in the Alexandria Governorate.

Libya

Visit by Presidents of Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso

Malian President Gives Banquet Speech

LD1706154594 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1223 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Speech given by Malian President Alpha Omar Konare at banquet given by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli on 16 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear brothers and friends. The presence of Blaise Compaore, Mahamane Ousmane, and I around our brother host Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi this evening is not a mere coincidence. It is in the name of common history and our preoccupations now and in the future, a future we want to build together. We all reject the current misfortune of our continent. We all refuse to believe that our continent is a continent of hatred and violence. What is happening in Rwanda and elsewhere does not reflect the reality of our continent. This misery and hatred are not a fatality, and we have the means to end them. Our presence here also expresses this loud and clear.

Dear friend al-Qadhdhafi, we have come here to express our solidarity to you and to your people. [applause] The journey here will never be too long or too uncomfortable. What we are doing this evening has already been done by the 53 African states in Tunis. This was already done by the Nonaligned Movement, by the Arab League, and by the Islamic Conference last year and this year. We hope that our voice will be heard. We will do everything so the message gets through in every scene tomorrow. We have the obligation to do so. The future of the Libyan people concerns us. It is important that conditions be created today to continue the march.

It is important that justice should be done today. We stand by your side in this struggle, dear brother. You are aware of our problems and the difficulties we are going through at the moment. We will have to do everything in our power to prevent our countries from sliding toward ethnic, racial, regional, and religious conflicts. We cannot fight the battle for democracy and nationalism on ethnic, racial, regional, and religious basis. Our continent needs social justice and solidarity today. It is with solidarity, hard work, and commitment that we will be able to face this challenge. We need solidarity, and we should move rapidly towards strong integration of our countries. Regional integration should not be an empty word or a mere slogan, otherwise, we condemn our continent to bankruptcy by the end of the century. Regional integration is a must. We believe in it, and we will work for it. If we fail to do so, we and our children will be doomed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Banquet

LD1706165794 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1139 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a banquet held in honor of the visiting presidents of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger in Tripoli on 16 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. I warmly welcome our brothers and neighbors, the leaders of the African-Muslim countries: Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso in the same manner as we welcomed our friend Museveni, the Ugandan president, and before him our brother Deby, the president of Chad.

The Libyan people welcome and appreciate such solidarity from their brothers because it will consolidate the Libyan people's position in its confrontation with the conspiracy led by three colonialist-Western countries. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people feels comfortable after the effort it extended to the neighboring fraternal peoples and deems that the patriots have assumed power in these countries and the agents have fallen.

The Libyan people has undertaken numerous responsibilities toward these peoples. The victory of the will of the peoples of Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad, and the consolidation of freedom and democracy....[pauses] On the other hand, from the viewpoint of the Western imperialist countries, what the Libyan people were doing was considered support for international terrorism, and considered the training camps for those leaders and peoples, who were carrying out a liberation war, as terrorist camps. This pretext has now been exposed, and this Western propaganda, which they used so frequently in the aggression against Libya, has fallen. But, it seems that the colonialists will not let the Third World achieve stability and build itself in order to progress.

After these national movements won in these countries, we see that the colonialist countries work toward creating trouble and problems for them. The material evidence that condemn the countries of Western colonialism are obvious. They accuse us of all untrue accusations and refuse to be confronted with the facts that condemn them. Regrettably, this will not lead to an understanding between us.

We all know that these peoples now, in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali, who aspire for stability and construction, are today the target of a new plot. The role of the old type of colonialism has been concretely confirmed. This implicit and flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of these peoples contradicts the statements and declarations made by these countries.

In the past they accused Libya of being behind the destabilization of African states. Yet, it transpired that Libya was behind the cause of liberation and people's democracy. Now, the very states who used to accuse Libya are the ones who are trying fervently to destabilize the African continent.

These are inhuman ethics and a flagrant injustice. The Western states are constantly pursuing these states; they are trying to sow instability in them; they deny them a chance to prove themselves. Psychologically speaking, we feel as if we are facing groups who are enemies of humanity. We are facing a mentality used to arrogance and the enslavement of others. This is not an accusation, but a reality.

Who on earth can belittle a person who happens to have a black skin? Who in the world introduced the words racial discrimination to the dictionary? They are the Western colonialist states.

Regrettably, we are facing peoples who are defying the whole of mankind. We are in confrontation against arrogant states, who impose their wrath against us; they use a veto against our future. When we raise our voice and resist, they accuse us of being warmongers, and against peace.

What kind of peace are they talking about? They are talking about surrender and that Third World people should surrender without making a stand. We have decided, nonetheless, to resist. A fact that they must understand.

Africa should not be destined to face poverty and misery until doomsday merely because of its skin, which was God's creation. They have begun a new flagrant interference. Regrettably they have meddled with the United Nations, which used to be the refuge of peoples seeking peace and protection. They have torn up the UN Charter. They had no right to tear up a charter that was written by the people.

They have trodden on international law; they have no right to do so. It is an international law and not an internal one. They have been using the United Nations for a purpose completely different from the one that was intended for it. They are using the United Nations as a vehicle for neo-colonialism.

Before, they used the League of Nations to impose their protectorate on the colonized Third World countries. As soon as they fiddled with it the League of Nations fell.

Today, the Western powers are accused of working seriously for the fall of the United Nations. The best proof is the fact that they have been using the United Nations for their manipulation; they have transformed it into an instrument in their hands. They have trodden on its charter.

Today, they are carrying out their own work in the name of the United Nations. They are using the United Nations outside its Charter. Thus, they have decided to kill the United Nations. This attitude is a serious one that can be very harmful to people of the world. This means that we will face a new form of chaos. The world will be transformed into a jungle; and the Western states will be responsible for the outcome

What is happening these days in a number of Third World countries is clear proof of what I have just said. They believe that the Third World is made up of children and duped people; this is in addition to their inferior attitude toward Africa; they think that the African people are mere gorillas living in a jungle; they do not believe that the inhabitants of Africa are human beings. Even Dr. Barnard, the heart surgeon who succeeded in performing the first heart transplant operation used to hold this way of thinking; i.e., black people are not human beings, consequently, one should carry out tests on them unreservedly. Consequently, he carried out numerous tests on black people, like the test performed in the West on mice and rabbits.

After having killed a large number of people and destroyed their hearts, he succeeded in perfecting the right heart transplant technique. All this stems from their attitude of inferiority toward the black race. They think that we do not understand this.

Their behavior is aimed at undermining our will, our desire to live, and our right to our land. Now, they are interfering in the internal affairs of every state; they believe that we are children and duped to the extent that they create problems, then they claim that they have to send military forces to solve these problems.

We are aware that they are the ones who created these problems so that they have a pretext to intervene and solve them; they think that we are naive and ignorant and imbeciles to be fooled by this game. Their mentality is still that of Vasco de Gama; they think that Africa still resembles the one discovered by Vasco de Gama when he gave Africans shells and beads and took raw material and land in return. All Western states are like Vasco de Gama; they share the same mentality as that of Vasco de Gama; they still perceive and consider us as the same people who were discovered by Vasco de Gama. These are the matters that incite revolution, and force us to accept the challenge. Why do they not leave Mali alone, and stop their interference? They should let this poor country rebuild itself and live. Why do they not leave Niger and Chad alone? All the suffering of these countries is due to this policy.

They must understand that while we meet at this level we are fully aware of their conspiracies. It is our right to fight and we have decided to fight so that they respect us and recognize that we are people like them, at least like them, even if we believe that we are better than them because we do not commit the acts they are committing. Therefore, our mentality is more noble than theirs. We do not have the mentality of absurdity, human disdain, race, and color segregation. They take pleasure in the suffering of the African peoples and laugh at the backwardness of the African that they imposed on them in the first place.

They consider Africa as a jungle, a place for hunting, a source for raw materials, and a garden where you can pick fruits, but they consider its inhabitants as gorillas. Thus is the Western culture that led to colonialism, and world wars, and it is the one we are facing nowadays under various names.

In Libya, they confronted us in the Gulf of Sirte. When the world condemned them and this problem was over, they invented a problem called al-Rabitah. When it became clear that al-Rabitah was a pharmaceutical plant, and the world condemned them and showed solidarity with Libya, they created the so-called Lockerbie issue.

In this context, the Libyan people hails your stance during the OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit meeting. The Libyan people hails its brothers and neighbors, as well as all the African leaders who stood with the Libyan people.

The world condemned them in the Gulf of Sirte and al-Rabitah cases, and is now condemning them in the Lockerbie case. Despite all this, we hear astonishing things. They say that Libya is defying the international community. Who is defying the international community?

For them, the international community means the Western colonialist countries. As for the others, they are not at the level of the international community.

The conspiratorial memorandum handed by the United States, France, and Britain to the United Nations was considered as the will of the international community. They ignore the will of Africa.

What do they have to say about the OAU summit meeting held yesterday in Tunis that expressed support to Libya and the proposals it made. Are the African countries considered out of the international community?

The Nonaligned Movement expressed support for Libya, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] expressed support for Libya. The Arab League expressed support for Libya. The OAU adopted the Arab League resolution, in addition to the peoples, groups, parties, and organizations throughout the whole world. Despite all this, should we listen to them tomorrow, we will hear the same broken record: Libya is defying the will of the international community. In fact, they are the ones who are isolated. They are the ones who are isolated by the will of the international community. This will is now on the Libyan side. The international community is now expressing full support and sympathy for Libya, and condemns the three Western countries.

Despite all this, we can still hear insolent statements full of disdain to the international community. This is the stubborn mentality that we are facing.

We recently heard that a Palestinian person admitted responsibility for causing the explosion of the Pan Am aircraft. He made this confession before a court. The day after, the West denied this confession. The world was shocked. How could this happen? Yesterday, we were looking for whoever was behind the Pan Am explosion.

We say to the world: Do not be surprised, for the reason is very simple. This Palestinian is poor. He does not have millions to compensate the families of the victims. Therefore, how could one charge him for this act? Libya, however, is rich. It can pay damages. So, one must accuse it.

This is the reason the world has been laughing at this: How can one admit [responsibility for this act] only to hear the West tell him: No, no, it is not you.

As long as the issue is one of compensation, and so that Libya rids the world of this problem and prevents respectable presidents coming all the way from their countries to Libya on foot [as heard], because of this unjust resolution....[pauses]

The world is tired of all the fuss made about Libya. The embargo on Libya has ruined many countries and even the West has lost out because it is stupid. In order to rid the world of this problem, since the issue is about compensation, Libya does not object to the creation of a compensation fund, for this would be a humanitarian action. This fund would be used to compensate the victims' families, including those of Lockerbie, just for the sake of the world and in order to rid the world of this tension. There are families of Libyan victims who were killed by America and Britain. However, the Libyans are perhaps rich and may not need any compensation. There are also Iranian families whose relatives were killed by America when the U.S. Navy shot down the civilian aircraft aboard which they were flying. It could be that Iran is rich and would not want any compensation.

There are also the victims of the Italian airliner shot down by the U.S. fleet over Ustica. There are the Lockerbie victims and maybe the Americans and the British are poor and would like damages. We do not object to the creation of a compensation fund; and let us erase the confessions of that Palestinian and let us tell him: Keep quiet, we know that you carried out the Pan Am operation but you have not got any money. This is a good solution.

The Libyan people are once again, I believe, doubly happy. Once because their efforts with the neighboring and sister states would not have been wasted. Nationalist regimes were established in Egypt [as heard], Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, and Tunisia. Nationalist regimes and popular regimes dear to Libya were established in these countries. These efforts were considered as aimed at destabilizing Africa and were regarded as terrorism, but the result was the triumph of the nationalist regimes.

When we were working against the lackey regimes they told us: You were destabilizing Africa. Now we have united with nationalist regimes they tell us: This is unity, you have imperial ambitions. They have been stubbornly against us in both cases. [passage omitted]

I have one remark to make before I conclude my speech, it is about our sisterly Rwanda. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this is not the first catastrophe that has shaken Rwanda. We still remember with sadness and bitterness the tragic massacres of 1959 and 1973. Today we are witnessing fresh massacres. I am afraid that such ugly massacres will be repeated. We should, therefore, accept the bad in order to avoid the worse.

We are aware that the Tutsi tribes immigrated to this region hundreds of years ago. They might have come from Arab countries. Problems began to emerge between the original people and those coming from outside. Like between Palestinians and Israelis and whites and blacks in South Africa. The situation in Rwanda is, however, a particular one and should not be taken as an example for other countries.

Regrettably, the solution I am about to propose is a bad one, but it is better than the worse. If we want to stop the massacres and prevent their recurrence forever, we must separate the two races, the Tutsi and the Hutu.

What is now called the National Front is in fact the frontier of the Tutsis, and the so-called government is for the Hutus. International forces should now separate the two sides. The separation should be final between them. In fact, this is the only solution to prevent these tragedies from recurring.

Dear brothers, I thank you for this visit and this meeting that provided us with an opportunity to talk about these important issues, which we discussed today and yesterday.

I once more welcome you in your country and among your kinsfolk. We are your natural ally, and you can rely on this ally which will never disappoint you. The struggle continues.

Mali President Departs Tripoli

LD1806141094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 18 Jun (JANA)—President Alpha Oumar Konare, president of the Republic of Mali, and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Burkinabe, Niger Presidents Leave

LD1706154994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Blaise Campaore, president of Burkina Faso, and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President Mahamane Ousmane, president of the Republic of Niger, and the accompanying delegation also left Tripoli at noon today at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Statement on Visit by African Presidents

LD1806205894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] A press statement was issued today in Tripoli, Bamako, Niamey, and Ouagadougou, following the visit of Presidents Blaise Campaore of Burkina Faso, Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali, and Mahamane Ousmane of Niger to the Great Jamahiriyah. Here follows the text of the statement:

In the framework of the fraternal relations linking the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [RSPLJ] with Burkina Faso, the Republic of Niger, and the Republic of Mali, and proceeding from the principles and objectives of the OAU, and in eagerness to strengthen the relations of brotherhood and good neighborliness between their countries, Presidents Blaise Campaore of Burkina Faso, Mahamane Ousmane of Niger, and Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali paid a business and fraternal visit to the RSPLJ from 15 to 18 June.

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, had metings with the guest presidents, and intensive talks were held between them on relations between their countries in the political and economic spheress, and on regional, African, and international issues of common interest. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the tangible development of relations and cooperation between them, and they stressed the importance of relations between their countries in the political, economic, and security-related domains, and the founding of the appropriate organs toward this end.

The leaders expressed their great concern over the situation in Rwanda. They condemn the massacres being repeatedly perpetrated against civilians in Rwanda. In this respect, they stressed the importance of an immediate cease-fire between the parties to the conflict, and the need to find a radical solution that would bring security and stability to Rwanda.

With the aim of bolstering collective relations between their states, the leaders underscored the importance of activating the group of states bordering the Sahara, and of promoting cooperation between them in order to secure stability and security, and to resolve the problems in the region, which would become an element toward a linkage and not separation between the north and south of the Sahara, and in order to secure collective cooperation between them in harmony with the historic, social, and cultural ties between their peoples. The leaders reviewed the efforts being made to carry out the national charter in the Republic of Mali, and the talks underway in order to put an end to the armed rebellion in northern Niger. They stressed the importance of finding a final solution to these questions out of their commitment to preserving security throughout the region. Therefore, the leaders agreed that a meeting be held by the foreign ministers of the concerned states in the Republic of Mali in order to prepare for the convening of a summit in the RSPLJ. Toward this end, the foreign ministers have been assigned the task of intensifying contacts and meetings and exchanging information.

The leaders also reiterated their solidarity and that of their peoples with the people of the RSPLJ in facing up to the measures imposed on the Arab Libyan people. They expressed their support for the Arab, African, and international efforts being made in order to find a just, honest, and rapid solution so as to put an end to these measures, which affect all the peoples of the region.

At the conclusion of the visit, the presidents expressed their thanks and gratitude to brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, and the Arab Libyan people, for the warm welcome and hospitality offered to them.

Signed in Tripoli on 9 Muharram, corresponding to 18 June 1994.

FRY Envoy Thanks al-Qadhdhafi for 'Objective' Role

LD1906194694 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1838 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Jun (TANJUG): Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today received Dusan Simeonovic, Yugoslav ambassador to Tripoli, who handed him a message by Zoran Lilic, the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The ambassador passed on the high regard of the Yugoslav leadership and the FRY Government for the objective and constructive position the head of the Libyan state has had since the beginning of the Yugoslav crisis and Libya's for consistently friendly relations with Yugoslavia.

Thanking him for the message, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his position of respect and support for the efforts the FRY Government is making toward a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

They laid particular stress on the usefulness of the ongoing high-level dialogue between the two countries and the interest both sides are showing in its resumption.

U.S. Escalation To 'Shut Door' on Lockerbie

PM1706153894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Libya: The United States Will Not Succeed in Imposing Oil Sanctions"]

[Text] Cairo—In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Cairo, a Libyan official criticized the "U.S. Administration's threat to escalate the sanctions against his country to include oil exports." He ruled out "the possibility of a Security Council resolution to that effect because the interests of several Security Council member states are linked to Libyan oil."

He pointed out that "the U.S. insistence on esclation could shut the door in the face of the attempts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis." He stressed that closing the door to a solution "would never change Libya's position or make it forfeit its sovereignty and break its laws." He said that "the Libyan people can live without the oil."

'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications (communications minister), left Cairo yesterday for his country via Tunisia after a visit to Egypt lasting several days.

Early in the week, he survived a road accident on his way from Libya to Cairo in the al-Dab'ah area near al-'Alamayn.

Opposition Front To Convene National Council

PM1706155094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front Completes Preparations for National Council"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Ibrahim Sahd, official spokesman of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] (opposition), has stated that "the NFSL's organizational situation is excellent" and that preparations "have been completed for convening the NFSL National Council in the near future. It will be a major demonstration for the Libyan oppositionists to confirm their options and define the new courses of action."

He told AL-HAYAH yesterday that 35 representatives of the Central American region met some days ago and elected 10 people to represent them in the National Council along with five observers, and that representataves of Western America had met earlier and elected eight representatives and four observers. He added that this process was carried out in most NFSL offices and branches around the world.

Mauritania

President Ould Taya Returns From OAU Summit

AB1706145094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 2000 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Summary] President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya returned to Nouakchott this afternoon from the OAU summit in Tunis. Speaking to the media upon arrival, the president said the summit went well and that important issues were raised and discussed during the deliberations. On the sidelines of the summit, President Ould Taya met with most of his counterparts to discuss bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The president expressed gratitude to the Tunisian head of state and new OAU chairman, and to the Tunisian people for the warm welcome accorded him in Tunis.

Yemeni Minister Meets President, Makes Statement

LD1906222394 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya today received Mr. Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of civil service and administrative reform in the sisterly Republic of Yemen, who is also the special envoy of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, the Yemeni minister made the following statement to our colleague Zaidan:

[Begin al-'Arashi recording] I am very happy with and honored by the reception by his excellency, the president. I was able to convey the message from Lieutenant-General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Republic of Yemen.

As you know, the bilateral Yemeni-Mauritanian relations—which go back to historical times—and the brotherly ties between the two presidents, the people, and the two governments, are given special importance by this continuity. Also, it should be mentioned that because of the current Yemeni situation to defend Yemeni unity, and what is going on in the Yemeni sphere, it was necessary to put the brother president in the picture and to brief him on the outcome of dialogue resulting from Arab and United Nations efforts.

We believe that the cause of Yemeni unity—which is the cause of all Arabs—has the support and enthusiasm of the president, as confirmed during our meeting. This support is to consolidate Yemeni unity and democracy in Yemen. This is not only to strengthen Yemen and secure victory in the cause of unity, but to consolidate it with this satisfactory start on the Arab front. [sentence as heard]

I cannot but express my thanks and gratitude in the name of Yemen, its government, people, and leadership on this occasion for the sentiments we received from the Mauritanian president, people, and government. Thank you very much. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official Reviews U.S. Envoy Wells' Visit

EA1706210694 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 17 June (SUNA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy, Melissa Wells, will head for Washington to submit her report to the U.S. Administration on the talks she held with President Lieutenant General al-Bashir and the heads of the four Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states, which concentrated on the issue of peace and humanitarian affairs.

The U.S. envoy left Sudan on 15 June for Nairobi to meet with rebel leaders, thereby completing her report, which will embrace the different viewpoints on the issues of relief and peace.

This was stated in Sudan by Mityang Malwal, the director of the peace department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, speaking in today's edition of AL INQADH AL-WATANI.

He said the U.S. envoy's program included another mission on the issue of relief, which would take her to Geneva to hold talks with international donor agencies. His excellency the ambassador said that he accompanied the U.S. envoy to Kadugli in southern Kurdufan state, and to Wau in the western state of Bahr al-Ghazal, where they toured refugee camps and learned about different relief organizations' activities. His excellency said the situation was stable, and that relief work and services to refugees were continuing.

He said the envoy listened to a report from the Catholic archbishop in Wau, workers from the Islamic Call organization, and the Muwaffaq Charitable Organization, which he said confirmed that there was a great degree of peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Christians.

Mr. Mityang reiterated the government's commitment to the passage of relief supplies, agreements on humanitarian activities, and the provision of food to all war victims in the south.

His excellency said the government delegation was prepared for the forthcoming round of negotiations in Nairobi, and denied reports carried by western media that hopes had dimmed over Sudan's participation in the forthcoming negotiations, especially if the government recaptured Nimule. He said Sudan would participate in the negotiations even if all Sudanese territory was liberated, because peace is the principal pillar upon which stability and development rest.

Positive Reaction to New U.S. Line

PM2006090094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "President Reagan Thought Sudan Was an Asian State Neighboring India; Explosive Dialogues Between al-Turabi and U.S. Envoys to Khartoum"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Melissa Wells, the special U.S. envoy to Sudan, yesterday left Khartoum for Washington concluding a three-day visit to the Sudanese capital during which she met with a number of Sudanese officials including [President] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, to whom she delivered a message, and Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (parliament).

The visit coincided with significant military victories for the government forces against the rebels in southern Sudan, in which the government forces recaptured the city of Kajo Kaji and 12 other cities and villages.

It has been reported that the U.S. officials who now visit Sudan have begun to change their old threatening tone and talk about improvement of relations.

A highly placed Sudanese source has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the change of tone came after heated and explosive dialogues between these envoys, including Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau, and President al-Bashir and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, the well-known Islamic figure and secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress.

The source said that in one of these dialogues Dr. al-Turabi told a U.S. envoy that by pursuing a course hostile to Sudan and its Islamic government and by criticizing the application of the Shari'ah [Islamic law], the United States is moving into quicksands dangerous to it and its interests.

Dr. al-Turabi made that remark after the U.S. envoys expressed concern about Christian human rights in Sudan and about violation of human rights and implementation of the Shari'ah.

The source added that Dr. al-Turabi told one of the U.S. envoys that Sudan is concerned about the violation of black rights in the United States and about the persecution of American Muslims; and that he reminded him that the white Americans had killed all Indian males and taken their women prisoners, and that what Sudan is doing now to preserve its territorial integrity was what George Washington did when he liberated the United States and safeguarded its territorial integrity.

Dr. al-Turabi told the envoy that some U.S. officials did not even know what Sudan was, so why this hostile attitude toward it?

He added that when he was foreign minister he once met President Ronald Reagan during President Numayri's visit to the United States, and he made great efforts to explain Sudan's location to President Reagan who thought it was adjacent to India.

The highly placed source said that Dr. al-Turabi protested strongly when President Bill Clinton received the British author Salman Rushdie, who is of Indian origin. He said that receiving a writer who offended the Islamic faith and the prophet was a provocation to the entire Islamic nation confirming a deep-seated grudge against Muslims.

The U.S. Government had addressed a strongly worded ultimatum to the Khartoum government accusing it of terrorism and of opening training bases for extremist organizations. President 'Umar al-Bashir's reply to that ultimatum was that he told the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum that Sudan would defend itself against any U.S. interference and that what the Americans faced in Somalia and before that in Vietnam would be a "picnic" compared with what they would face in Sudan.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Washington's recent change of tone came after it became certain that threatening language is futile with Sudanese officials.

It seems that the Sudanese Government has begun to react positively to the new U.S. line. President al-Bashir told U.S. Envoy Wells that his government is committed to any U.S. move to settle the dispute in southern Sudan peacefully. He also said that threats of blockade against Sudan would not help but would complicate the problem.

Egyptian-Sudanese Contacts To Ease Tensions

PM1706144294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 94 ppl, 4

[Reports by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo and Kamal Hamid and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum: "Egyptian-Sudanese Contacts To End the Escalation"]

[Excerpts] AL-HAYAH has learned that unannounced Egyptian-Sudanese contacts are currently under way as an air of optimism prevails among diplomats concerned with the dossier of relations between the two countries that a relaxation in these relations is imminent in the form of mutual steps to end the escalation and ease the tension between the two countries, at a time when the Sudanese authorities seem to be considering reducing the number of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo.

According to informed sources in Cairo, extensive contacts are currently in progress between Cairo and Khartoum on points of disagreement, with an interest in keeping news of these contacts out of the media. [passage omitted]

A Sudanese diplomat in Cairo has told AL-HAYAH that the question of the presence of Egyptian forces in Hala'ib or in 'Arakiyin south of the 22nd parallel has not gone beyond informing the authorities concerned that there has been some transgression. He reaffirmed that his government cares about its relations with Egypt. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese diplomat said that his government's position "is that all issues without exception can be settled through numerous bilateral channels."

Meanwhile, AL-HAYAH has learned that the Sudanese authorities are considering reducing the number of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo in view of the tense relations between the two countries.

A high-ranking Sudanese official questioned by AL-HAYAH about these reports said that the government "is indeed leaning towards reducing the size of its diplomatic missions in the states where the size of representation is greater than the level of their relations with Sudan." He said that the "emphasis will be on the states with which we have vast links." He added that the government was about to introduce major changes in the Foreign Ministry's structures and organs in implementation of that policy. But he refused to discuss diplomatic missions in any particular state.

In another development, informed sources say that police forces in the Sudanese capital launched a major campaign the day before yesterday to assemble the homeless in Khartoum and then send them to military training camps before sending to the south to participate in the fighting there. The sources added that 10 million Sudanese pounds have been allocated for that task. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Troop Increase for UN Forces in Rwanda Ordered

LD1806174794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has ordered an increase in the number of Tunisian troops to the UN forces in Rwanda. This took place when the president received Defense Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia this morning in Carthage Palace. This decision gives substance to the determination of our country shown during the OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit in Tunis of assuming its responsibility in settling conflicts in Africa. President Ben Ali, the current chairman of the OAU, stressed that this initiative is a response to the need shown in the African summit for an effective contribution by African countries to the settlement of hot conflicts in the continent, within the framework of cooperation between the OAU and the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Holds Talks With Namibian President

LD1606143194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks this morning at the Carthage Palace with President Sam Nujoma of Namibia within the framework of the official visit which the Namibian president is making to our country after the OAU summit. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman [for the presidency] said that during these talks President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President Sam Nujoma discussed cooperation between the two countries and agreed to set up a joint commission to prepare integrated programs for this cooperation at the government and private levels.

The two presidents gave instructions to the foreign ministers of the two countries to prepare a special program for the exchange of visits between the various bodies concerned with this cooperation. It was decided that the Tunisian side would move this cooperation forward by contributing its expertise in carrying out development programs in Namibia.

On the other hand, the official spokesman said that the talks dealt with the situation in the Arab Maghreb and Southwest Africa as well as the challenges facing the OAU. [passage omitted]

Economic, Technical Agreements Signed

LD1606205594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] On the sidelines of the official visit which the Namibian President Sam Nujoma is currently paying to Tunisia, a ceremony was organized at the foreign affairs ministry headquarters this afternoon during which Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, and his Namibian counterpart, Theo-Ben Gurirab, signed two agreements.

The first agreement calls for the creation of a joint committee between the two countries, while the second represents a framework agreement for economic and scientific and technical cooperation between the two states.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1706235394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tunisian-Namibian joint statement was issued following the official visit to Tunisia by President Sam Nujoma of the Republic of Namibia starting 16 June at the invitation of President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali. The statement said:

On this occasion the two state presidents, in an amicable atmosphere, held a series of talks which allowed them to look into bilateral relations and means to strengthen them and to exchange views on current affairs on both the African and world arenas. They both expressed their satisfaction at the ideal ties that link their two brotherly countries and their strong commitment to African solidarity and human values and their firm determination to bolster democracy and human rights. [passage omitted]

The two leaders reviewed current affairs at the regional and international levels; they recorded with satisfaction their agreement over the various issues discussed. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to the principles and goals of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity [OAU] and decided to intensify consultations between officials from the two countries during bilateral meetings and international and regional conferences. [passage omitted]

The two presidents stressed the importance of the resolutions issued by the OAU Tunisian summit and which are to bolster peace and cooperation in Africa and promote Africa's role on the world arena.

Regarding the situation in Africa, presidents Ben Ali and Nujoma expressed their satisfaction at the efforts made towards a peaceful settlement of all the conflicts in the continent in order to create a suitable atmosphere for peace, security, and development. They also expressed their satisfaction at the success of the democratic process in South Africa, an event which would give the African continent a positive impetus at the political and economic levels. The two presidents discussed the Rwandan crisis and expressed satisfaction at the indications of detente, manifested in the agreement of the two parties to halt hostilities, and expressed their wish that dialogue would help achieve national reconciliation in this African country.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, the Namibian and Tunisian presidents hailed the brave struggle fought by the Palestinian people to establish its independent state on its land and expressed satisfaction at the positive and encouraging progress in the Middle East peace process according to UN resolutions.

Yemen

South's 'Presidential Council' Member Meets Ibrahimi

EA1806133094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, who arrived in Jeddah lately, met Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen.

During the meeting, brother Salim Salih Muhammad was briefed on the results of the contacts conducted by the envoy of the UN secretary general, and highly praised the efforts exerted by Ibrahimi for implementing the Security Council's Resolution No. 924.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad stressed the importance of ceasing the hostilities immediately and stopping the random bombardment of the civilian residential quarters and areas in the capital, Aden as a result of which hundreds of innocent citizens, including children, women and old people, have fallen victim, and halting the continued destruction process of public services by the ruling military regime in Sanaa.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad highlighted the current suffering of the inhabitants of the city of Aden as a result of the siege and the random shelling, and pointed out the heroic steadfastness in confronting this destructive war in defense of honor and safeguarding the lives of the innocent. He stressed the need to condemn and stop this aggression by all people, Arab, international organizations, and other bodies to prevent the dangerous repercussions which increase day by day.

Musa Denies Yemeni Meeting To Be Held in Cairo

NC1806140794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that a meeting between the Yemeni parties will be held in Cairo tomorrow, Sunday.

In a statement he made today, he said that UN envoy to Yemen Lakhdar Ibrahimi will leave Cairo for New York tomorrow and that there are no agreement on any specific proposals or steps.

Musa added that what Egypt is demanding and insisting on is a cease-fire and the disengagement of forces in Yemen.

He stressed that the opportunities for protecting Yemen's unity will decrease the longer the fighting continues.

Regarding the situation in Rwanda, Musa said that the United Nations has decided to send troops there, and noted that France has also taken an initiative on this issue. He added that Egypt is bound by whatever the African countries decide.

YSP Official: Delegation Arrives fo Cairo Talks

NC1806205694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council in the recently declared Republic of Yemen in Aden and assistant secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has stated that talks will take place tomorrow, Sunday 19 June, in Cairo to discuss a cease-fire in Yemen.

He said that a ranking Yemeni delegation has arrived in Cairo to discuss the mechanism for a cease-fire. The delegation will meet with Egyptian officials to inform them of the latest developments in the situation in Yemen and the effects of the war so far.

He added that the major objective now is to stop the bloodshed among the sons of Yemen in order to preserve the remaining institutions of the country.

Northern Delegation To Join Cease-Fire Talks

NC1906080294 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 19 (AFP)—A northern Yemeni delegation will leave here Sunday [19 June] for Cairo to attend ceasefire talks sponsored by the United Nations, an official here said.

Sanaa told UN special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi that it would send a delegation to Cairo "on condition the (meeting) is held in the context of the Republic of Yemen and not that of two states as the southerners want," he told AFP.

The meeting will last one day, said the official who requested anonymity.

Ibrahimi, Yemenis Hold Cease-Fire Meeting in Cairo

NC2006072594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy investigating the Yemeni crisis, has said that the southern and northern Yemeni delegations told him that they are committed to the cease-fire and are aware of the importance of creating a mechanism to supervise it.

Speaking following separate meetings with a delegation of the Republic of Yemen, led by 'Ali Mansur Rashid, and a delegation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which recently proclaimed independence, Ibrahimi said that the aim of his talks with the two delegations was to establish a cease-fire in Yemen and devise a mechanism to monitor it.

Ibrahimi said that he will submit a full report on his mission to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who will in his turn present a report to the UN Security Council proposing a course of action on the crisis. [passage indistinct]

The UN secretary general's envoy said that he will continue to seek a stable cease-fire in Yemen, reiterating that both sides are aware that continued shelling is against their interests.

Ibrahimi said that continued fighting is neither acceptable or sensible, expressing hope that the cease-fire will be upheld as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, 'Abdallah Muhsin al-'Ikwah, spokesman for the northern Yemeni delegation, described as good the delegation's talks with Ibrahimi, which focused on ways to stabilize the cease-fire. Al-'Ikwah told journalists that the delegation is in Cairo "to meet with the brothers of the Yemeni Socialist Party, our partners in the coalition." Asked about the creation of borders splitting the countries in half, al-'Ikwah said that this is an inappropriate development.

For his part, Muhsin Bin-Farid, head of the southern Yemeni delegation, said that the delegation seeks the implementation of Resolution 924 as a first step that could lead to the discussion of other matters.

Concerning the need for a peace-keeping force to support the resolution, Bin-Farid said that such a force is needed; otherwise, UN resolutions will not be respected by any side.

Bin-Farid said that the southern delegation conveyed to Ibrahimi a call on the UN Security Council to take deterrent action against any side violating its resolutions.

Ibrahimi Views Meetings With Yemenis

NC2006112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi today reviewed the outcome of recent consultations between Ibrahimi and Yemeni officials concerning the Yemeni crisis. [passage omitted]

Asked about the nature of the problem facing a possible direct meeting between southern and northern Yemeni delegations, Ibrahimi said: I cannot speak in behalf of Yemeni sides. The two parties have agreed to accept the cease-fire and a mechanism should be created to stabilize that cease-fire.

This mechanism, Ibrahimi stated, consists of observers monitoring the cease-fire on the battle lines. He pointed out that the northerners want to revive the military committee but the southerners reject the idea, pointing to the committee's failure to end the fighting in the past. The UN envoy said that a compromise solution must be found and that a new formula for this mechanism should be found that is acceptable to both parties.

Answering a question on whether he will hold other meetings with the Yemeni delegations in Cairo today, Ibrahimi said that he will not hold further meetings for the time being, but will fly to New York to report on his mission to the UN Secretary General. The UN envoy said that he will, however, remain in touch with the concerned parties and with the Arab League in an effort to resolve what he described as a difficult problem.

Asked to comment on Sanaa's refusal to deal with Aden as a state, Ibrahimi said that there are real problems involved but the solution should begin with effecting a cease-fire. He said: If someone wants to establish a state or preserve unity, why does he wage military operations?

Commenting on reports about the internationalization of the crisis, Ibrahimi said that the United States is a superpower that has international concerns and it is worried about the situation in Yemen. Washington, he emphasized, supports UN efforts to end the fighting and initiate dialogue. Third parties have the right to worry, he remarked.

For his part, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Arab League Council is still in open session with regard to the Yemeni crisis. 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed every effort exerted to resolve the Yemeni crisis. He said that he backs Ibrahimi's call for an end to the fighting in Yemen, saying that the devastation and bloodshed are detrimental to everything that the Yemenis have achieved in the past.

Musa, Ibrahimi Discuss Yemeni Crisis

NC2006112994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy to Yemen, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Ibrahimi stated after the meeting that he is continuing the dialogue with the brothers in Egypt in view of Egypt's role in the area and its interest in what is happening in Yemen. He said that he briefed Musa on the outcome of his talks with the Yemeni parties in Cairo, adding that they discussed the future prospects in Yemen.

Ibrahimi said that his talks with the two Yemeni parties last night confirmed that a cease-fire is an urgent matter. He expressed his deep regret that no cease-fire was achieved in Yemen despite the fact that the two sides have accepted and recognized its importance.

The UN envoy said that the two Yemeni sides recognize the importance of the existence of a mechanism to supervise and consolidate a cease-fire in Yemen. He noted that no agreement has been reached yet on the formation of such a mechanism to undertake such a duty. He expressed the hope that all the parties will continue their contacts with the brothers in Yemen to urge them to quickly agree on the establishment of this mechanism to enable it to carry out its role. He reiterated that a cease-fire is the basis for achieving any progress in solving the Yemeni crisis. The UN envoy wondered how fighting among brothers can continue like this, stressing that no one approves of the war there.

Ibrahimi said that he will leave Cairo tomorrow to submit a report to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Asked about the possibility of a meeting between the two Yemeni delegations in Cairo today, Ibrahimi said he does not think that such a meeting will be held.

He emphasized that Egypt and the United Nations fully agree that a cease-fire must take place and the fighting must stop in Yemen.

UK's Hogg Rules Out Military Intervention

JN1806070994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, has reiterated that Britain only recognizes one Yemen, the united Yemen established on constitutional bases. He noted that Britain has its own definite bases and rules to recognize independent states, adding that what is taking place in Yemen is not in harmony with these bases.

In a statement to the London-based AL-HAYAH published yesterday, Hogg said that Britain welcomed the UN initiative and supported the UN secretary general in his move to dispatch Lakhdar Ibrahimi to Yemen to end the fighting and resolve the crisis. He said: We are waiting, with concern, for his final report on this mediation.

Asked whether the UN envoy would fail in his mission and about his view regarding the imposition of international sanctions or military intervention, Douglas Hogg said there will be no Western or Arab military interference. He said: Nobody wants to compete with another on sending troops to Yemen, because such initiatives would be unwelcomed by this country. He said: The issue of military intervention or economic sanctions is out of question. He stressed that such methods would not stop the Yemeni war that has been raging among the sons of one homeland.

The British minister of state noted that the Arabs and the United Nations can only find a tool or method to end the war through dialogue and mediation to restore peace to Yemen.

Asked by AL-HAYAH about the size and kind of danger resulting from the events in Yemen, Hogg said there is no particular danger posed to the Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, or Oman from the war in Yemen, but it is difficult in this case to be fully certain of this. He said: However, I reiterate that the Yemeni war will remain confined within the Yemeni territory.

Salih Briefs Defense Council on Ibrahimi Talks

JN1906065394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday afternoon presided over a meeting of the Higher Defense Council. Several brother ministers and officials attended.

After reviewing the decisions it made during its previous session, as well as the extent of their implementation, the Council discussed the topics listed on its agenda. The conferees also debated the discussions held between brother Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general who was sent to Yemen on a fact-finding mission. The brother president briefed the conferees on the talks he had held with the speaker of the House of Representatives, staff members of the House Speakership Office, members of parliamentary blocs, the acting prime minister, cabinet ministers, the leaders of various political parties and organizations, the leaders of popular organizations, as well as social, intellectual, and political figures in the homeland.

The conferees laid special emphasis on the efforts under way to implement UN Security Council Resolution 924, which concerns the situation in our country, in light of the government's appreciation of the aforementioned resolution and its declared commitment to handle it in a positive spirit, and to implement it in an integrated manner—commitment that reflected the eagerness of the Republic of Yemen to achieve security and stability throughout its territory—, heedful that the UN Charter guarantees all members of the world body inalienable legitimate rights.

The conferees also debated the recent gesture made by the political leadership to reactivate the work of the Joint Military Committee so it may establish a cease-fire.

The Council discussed several important reports pertaining to developments in our country in the military, political, economic, and social fields. It also debated the executive programs endorsed to address the impact of the rebellion and violation of constitutional legitimacy, which have caused untold hardships in the country. For the country is currently experiencing a military mutiny and a bloody national sedition that have been courageously, heroically, and firmly confronted by our people and their valiant Armed Forces.

The Council has made several decisions and issued various directives to promote the victories achieved to safeguard unity and constitutional legitimacy, and nurture the solidarity and cohesion existing between the people and official agencies, which must be manifested through supporting the Armed Forces and security troops in their efforts to carry out their sacred national duties. These decisions and directives also addressed the connection between political action and the national objectives of our Yemeni people, the objectives of shielding the unity of their homeland, protecting democracy, and safeguarding all the national and constitutional gains made by the Republic of Yemen.

Salih, Defense Minister Said To Differ Over Entering Aden

JN1906085694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 24

["Exclusive" report by Fathi al-Qatta' in Sanaa]

[Text] Early this week, the Yemeni Foreign Ministry stopped financial remittances through the Yemeni Central Bank to some of its diplomatic missions and embassies abroad. Those include the embassies in Washington, New Delhi, Rome, Havana, Cairo, Muscat, Tehran, and Nairobi. The measure was adopted because the majority of the staff of those embassies supports the secessionist step declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid on 21 May.

Last week, Najib al-Haddi, a leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] and brother-in-law of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, was killed in the battlefield. Muqbil al-Fil, a member of the Yemeni House of Representatives and a leader of the YRG, was also killed.

Official and semiofficial Yemeni newspapers, as well as some parties that support unity, have launched fierce media campaigns against Saudi Arabia after its involvement in the Yemeni crisis and support for the secessionists diplomatically and militarily.

During President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to the two newly created camps of Zafar and al-Fatah in Dhamar last week, it was noticed for the first time that there were tanks having a different color of soil and desert. It was learned that these tanks were sent by Saudi Arabia to the secessionist forces through the Sharurah region, under Saudi occupation, near Hadhramaut. The forces of legitimacy seized those tanks but did not announce this.

There have been some changes in the military leaders. Some commanders who are close to President Salih were dismissed. Those included Colonel Ahmad Faraj, commander of the Khalid Bin-al-Walid Camp, and Colonel 'Abdallah al-Qadi, commander of the Infantry Brigade. The two camps are in Ta'izz. The commanders were dismissed because of the losses sustained by the forces of the two camps on the fronts.

It is also rumored in Sanaa that there has been a recent dispute between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the defense minister, because the latter refused to storm Aden justifying this by the great losses that the forces will incur, as well as the civilian losses. Hadi thinks what should be done is only to tighten the siege around Aden for some time and consequently bring about a change within the leadership and the military command of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Sanaa restored direct contacts with the outside world yesterday.

Sanaa Sets Conditions for Dialogue with South

NC1806153194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] In a telephone contact with MBC a short time ago, 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, the second-ranking man in Sanaa, set Sanaa's conditions for holding a dialogue with the southern Yemenis. He stressed that this dialogue will not be held outside the framework of the tripartite coalition that ruled Yemen before the war.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Ansi] We have, in fact, expressed our willingness to go to Cairo, on condition that the meeting involves the ruling tripartite coalition in the Republic of Yemen and that it will not be a meeting between two governments or parties. If this condition for the meeting is met, then we will agree to it; but if it is to be held on the basis of talks between the so-called secessionist government and the legitimate one, then we reject it.

[Ahmad Manjunah] Mr. al-'Ansi, have you told UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi with this position?

[Al-'Ansi] He will be informed of this appropriate reply if the consultations continue. [end recording]

Basindwah Comments on Joint Military Committee

JN1806054194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has asked Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah about reports disseminated by news agencies that the Government of the Republic of Yemen has agreed on the participation of Arab and foreign countries in the committee that will be in charge of consolidating a cease-fire. Brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah said: It should be clear that we have informed brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, and a number of Arab leaders that the Government of the Republic of Yemen agrees on activating the joint military committee, which includes Yemeni military officials and representatives from Jordan and the Sultanate Oman. He added that the Yemeni Government agreed on adding representatives from Syria and the Kingdom of Morocco, for the Arab side, in addition to the U.S. and French military attaches from the non-Arab side.

Basindwah Departs on European Tour

JN1906134394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Sanaa for some European capitals at noon today on working visits that will last several days.

Planning Minister on UN Envoy Ibrahimi's Tour

JN1806091994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, by Ahmad Birru in Sanaa; date not given; from the "Today's Guest" program—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's planning minister: Lakhdar Ibrahimi has been on a tour of regional capitals and held talks with the constitutional authorities in Sanaa and the Socialist Party leaders, who declared secession, in al-Mukalla. Has this led to any change in Sanaa's conditions for the dialogue and what are the practical results of this tour so far?

[Al-Iryani] The conditions set by Sanaa to conduct a political dialogue to end the crisis have not changed. Sanaa insists that such a dialogue must be held under the canopy of constitutional legitimacy and the Republic of Yemen's Constitution, and based on recognizing the outcome of the 27 April [1993] elections, the unity of the Armed Forces, and dismissing from the dialogue those against whom the public prosecutor has issued arrest warrants.

[Birru] The Arab League secretary general has announced that the Arab League's failure will lead to requesting the UN Security Council to take deterrent measures against the party that does not abide by the cease-fire.

[Al-Iryani] That statement, which was made by an Arab League assistant secretary general and not the secretary general, came as a shock to us in Sanaa. The Arab League is playing a role that it is not accustomed to and is using language that we have never heard before. But the statements were made by an assistant secretary general. His words may have failed to express what the Arab League means exactly. But the principle in itself was strange. The Arab League has never addressed any Arab issue through threats to seek help from the world community.

[Birru] What is the outcome of Sanaa's moves on the international level to explain the Yemeni Government's views and the tour by 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-Ghani in the capitals of the super powers. Has that tour resulted in bringing about any change in the positions of these states?

[Al-Iryani] Undoubtedly, the tour by Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member, resulted first in the drafting of the UN Security Council resolution. The initial draft that was proposed by Prince Bandar [Bin-Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Washington] referred to Yemen as the Arab Republic of Yemen, and not the Republic of Yemen. It also included several sentences which implied hidden intentions. The activity of Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani in this regard was positive. He also met with officials in the United States, France, and China. The main objective of that tour was to stress Yemen's commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 924 and its categorical rejection of any new intervention in Yemeni domestic affairs.

[Birru] The telephone call between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the United Arab Emirates President: Was that the result of efforts by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and what was discussed in that phone call?

[Al-Iryani] The efforts of Lakhdar Ibrahimi are clear and specified by the UN Security Council resolution. But contacts between the brother president and His Highness Shaykh Zayid have, in fact, never ceased. These contacts have continued over these past weeks after the military situation was ignited by the secessionists. This was not the first contact between the president and Shaykh Zayid.

[Birru] What was the subject of the phone call?

[Al-Iryani] The subject was the topic of the hour; that is, establishing the cease-fire, annulling the secession, ending the conflict with the secessionists through peaceful means, and expressing the desire that the United Arab Emirates play a role in this regard.

[Birru] The multi-faceted dialogue: What happened to it, and what are the topics under discussion now?

[Al-Iryani] In fact the dialogue is, practically, governed by a UN resolution now. Lakhdar Ibrahimi stresses that his report will mention the fact that Paragraph 4 of Resolution 924 can be implemented. Let us say that the warring parties now accept the dialogue and we have stressed to Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi that we feel this dialogue should be held within the framework of the three parties of the government coalition. The Socialist Party is the direct party in this crisis, the party that declare secession, and the party that led the rebellion. We are prepared to hold dialogue with the Socialist Party leadership according to the conditions I mentioned before.

[Birru] What about the joint committee, the presence of observers, and Sanaa's approval of the presence of non-Yemeni observers?

[Al-Iryani] The joint military committee was established during the military tensions and before the military situation exploded. It had representatives from Oman and Jordan, as well as the U.S. and French military attaches. What Sanaa proposed is to revive this committee to supervise the cease-fire and seek help from the military commanders from both sides. We understood from brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi that there is a desire to include other states in this committee. We proposed that Syria and Morocco should be included. This proposal was conveyed by Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi to the secessionists in Jeddah and we are still expecting an answer.

[Birru] What is the status of the talks with the unionists in the Socialist Party; with whom and where are these talks being conducted?

[Al-Iryani] Such efforts were exerted before UN Security Council Resolution 924 was issued. Now that the resolution has been issued, I do not think there are any attempts to open new channels for dialogue. It is not useful to open several channels. Since there is a channel recommended by the UN Security Council, this should be the only channel.

[Birru] Will you agree to let the Socialist Party resume the same role it played and hold the same share of power it held before secession?

[Al-Iryani] We have stressed to Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi and others, as well as to several states, that we adhere to the outcome of the 27 April elections. This means that the privileges, given to the Socialist Party in order to avoid the situation we are in now, cannot be given to it again. As for the size of its share in power in light of the outcome of these elections, we will stick to that.

[Birru] What are the most significant reforms that will be introduced after the end of the war, whether on the level of the Army and the government institutions or the administrative powers, such as centralism and other issues?

[Al-Iryani] The issue of the decentralized self rule, or the so-called local government, was a principal point during the dialogue. We thought that an agreement over this point would also help us avoid the situation we are in today. However, this issue will be more pressing than before the military battles. This means that the financial and administrative decentralization and the local government will become, in my opinion, more important and urgent than they were before these military battles.

[Birru] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, how do you see the future: the future of the war, the future of unity, the future of relations between Yemen and the Gulf states, and the future of Yemen in general?

[Al-Iryani] First, we beseech God that the war will have no future, and that those who seek war will fail. As regards the relations between Yemen and its neighbors, I can stress that the efforts exerted before this war broke out to improve the relations between Yemeni and its neighbors were unprecedented in more than 60 years. But regrettably, these efforts clashed with the military explosion. I can stress that these efforts that were exerted still survive and the hands will continue to be extended. If we exerted unprecedented efforts in the history of relations with the neighbors, then these efforts should continue after this situation is over. As for the future of Yemen, I think that you, as a journalist who can tour all parts of the country, will not find any exaggerations in my statement when I say that the future of the united Yemen is a historic inevitability and that those who are seeking to challenge history have to reconsider their position

[Birru] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, thank you.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you.

Government To 'Retaliate' If 'Separatists' Recognized

JN1706122094 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 17, INA—Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani warned against recognizing the separatists in the southern provinces.

In press statements published by Yemeni press here today, Mr. al-Iryani said his government would retaliate against such recognition including the severing of diplomatic relations with any country recognizing the separatists.

Al-Iryani on Willingness To Negotiate

JN2006092294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 94 pp 1, 25

[Report by Hasan Muhammad Mayy]

[Text] Sanaa—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and planning minister in the Republic of Yemen, has disclosed that his government agrees to negotiate with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders who had announced the establishment of a state in the southern and eastern governorates of the Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. al-Iryani specifically said: We are ready to negotiate with any of the YSP leaders within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 924, which invites those concerned from the Yemeni parties to search for peaceful solutions to the Yemeni problem. He said that the word "concerned" includes leaders from the YSP.

Al-Iryani said that the delegation which will leave for Cairo to seek a solution to the current crisis comprises an equal number of members from the three parties which participate in the coalition government: the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and the YSP.

Al-Iryani, who was preparing to leave for New York to pursue the search for a solution to the his country's crisis, said : I am going to New York to see what the Americans and the Saudis have in their quiver.

The Yemeni minister, who is close to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, did not elaborate on what other steps he believes the UN Security Council could adopt on the Yemeni crisis. However, he voiced extreme anger toward Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's recent statement warning that the UN Security Council will impose sanctions on the Republic of Yemen if the cease- fire is not respected. Al-Iryani said that by making such a statement, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has exceeded his authority as Arab League secretary general. The Yemeni minister said: I am surprised that the Arab League secretary general steps forward to condemn an Arab League member. He added: The only time we heard similar language was during the second Gulf War. Al-Iryani called on Arab League officials to act within the Arab League's framework. Addressing the Arab League secretary general, al-Iryani said: 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid does not have the right, nor is it his duty to act as an agent for issuing UN resolutions against the Republic of Yemen or any other Arab state.

The Yemeni planning minister said that his government wishes to reach a peaceful settlement of the Yemeni problem to avoid further losses resulting from the war against the YSP. He added: However, we will continue to resort to force if the YSP leaders adhere to their intransigent stands against the Republic of Yemen's constitutional legitimacy. He announced that the Yemeni forces will enter Aden and al-Mukalla by force if no peaceful settlement is attained. He added: I do not know of any country in the world which, faced with this situation, would not resort to force. He condemned those who try to impose a veto on the Yemeni forces entering Aden. He said: Those who impose a veto should submit a political alternative. He said: We act on the territory of the Republic of Yemen and we totally reject that they tell us not to do so.

The Yemeni planning minister seemed confident of military victory and restoring the rule of legitimacy to the entire Republic of Yemen territory.

Parliamentary Delegations Depart for Arab States

JN1706130394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] House of representatives delegations left Sanaa this morning for visits to fraternal Arab states.

A delegation led by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, member of the House Speakership Council, and includes brothers Ahmad Muhammad Sufan, Mansur Ahmad Sayf, and 'Abdallah al-Mukaybili travelled to the Arab Maghreb.

Another delegation, led by brother Yahya Mansur Abu-Isba', chairman of the Public Liberties and Human Rights Committee in the House, and including Deputies brothers Dr. 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Maqalih and Mahdi Abu-Bakr al-Hamid, headed for Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Djibouti. A third delegation left for Syria and Lebanon. It is led by Deputy brother Sultan al-Barakani and includes brothers 'Abbas 'Ali al-Mu'ayyad and Ahmad al-Hayyan. A fourth team left for Iraq and Jordan. It is headed by brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kidsi and includes brothers Muhammad Naji 'Allaw and 'Abduh Muhammad al-Kanabi.

The delegations are going abroad to supplement Yemeni diplomacy and convey a true picture of developments in Yemen to fraternal Arab parliaments, with a view to securing sustained support for Yemeni unity as a pan-Arab gain, as well as a national Yemeni achievement. The aim is also to make it clear that there are separatist elements out to impose secession by force of arms.

In a predeparture statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud explained the mission assigned to the delegations sent out by the House to the Arab states. They are carrying messages from the brother speaker to his Arab counterparts spelling out our country's stance on current developments in Yemen and the dimensions of the anti-unity conspiracy. These contacts are necessitated by bonds of Arab brotherhood, since Yemeni unity is not an exclusively Yemeni concern, but a brick in the edifice of Arab unity. As such, Yemeni unity is as much an Arab concern as it is an affair relevant to Arab masses and states, he added.

Brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab said he hoped these delegations will accomplish their task.

Al-Jifri Appeals to UN To Stop Sanaa Attacks

EA1806204194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Statement issued by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, "vice chairman of the Presidential Council"; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The refusal by the Sanaa regime to accept all the resolutions and appeals of the world has been accompanied by moves on the battlefronts to launch successive attacks on our brave forces who are defending Aden, its vital installations, and the civilians from among the sons of our people in a foolish and amazing insistence they [Sanaa regime] continue to attempt impossible advances aiming to occupy the steadfast city.

As I announce this to the world I would like to stress that the government of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has been asking for the necessity of convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council so that steps may be taken to put an end to the Sanaa regime's defiance of the resolutions of the Security Council and the appeals of the international community.

I also appeal to the fraternal Arab and Muslim countries and the friendly countries, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council, to take decisive measures with regard to the Sanaa regime which is rejecting everything and insisting on the logic of force, particularly after this has been demonstrated to everyone. [passage omitted]

Leaders Discuss Political, Military Situation

EA1906145094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers was held today, chaired by brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council. The participants reviewed the political situation and the military situation on the battlefronts in the context of the heroic feats being performed by our sons in the Armed Forces against the iniquitous forces of Sanaa. They also reviewed the moves of Yemeni political delegations at all levels, Arab and international, regarding the war against the sons of democratic Yemen. The participants went on to evaluate the roles of the state institutions during the present period and gave the political leadership a full mandate to carry out its tasks within the framework of the state's general policy.

Al-Jifri Tours Shelled Areas of Aden

EA1906192594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday made inspection visits to several residential areas in the capital, Aden, which had been subjected to the random barbarous bombardment by the forces of the Sanaa regime. [passage omitted]

The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council also inspected one of the mosques damaged by the destructive and barbarous bombardment. Addressing citizens who had gathered in the area, he expressed astonishment at the fatwa issued by the Sanaa regime's ulema in contradiction with our pure Islamic faith in that it divides the Yemenis into the house of Islam and the house of polytheism [dar al-islam wa dar al-shirk]. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, went on in his address to the citizens, to deal with the foreign political stance. He said the political leadership had responded positively to the initiative of Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the UN envoy, regarding the cease-fire and a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Yemen had accordingly left for Cairo for discussions on this matter as a positive response to the initiative.

Asnaj Makes Appeal to UN Secretary General

EA1706190094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] The Democratic Republic of Yemen has informed the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus-Ghali, of the latest developments in the situation in our country, and the dangers of the escalation resorted to by the Sanaa ruling regime represented in striking the cities and the residential quarters, especially Aden.

The Democratic Republic of Yemen appealed to Dr. Butrus-Ghali to submit these developments to the security council. This was stated by 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al-Asnaj, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. He said that the Democratic Republic of Yemen also demanded the UN Security Council to treat 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his regime as war criminals, confirming that our country was moving at the political and diplomatic levels to stop the war.

Al-Asnaj Comments on Cease-Fire, 'Occupation'

JN1906201194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 16 Jun 94 pp 1, 29

[Report by 'Ali al-'Amudi]

[Text] In the first southern reaction to Sanaa's denial of accepting the cease-fire proposed by the southern leadership through the UN envoy to Yemen, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al-Asnaj, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the government of President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, has said that Sanaa's denial is not new. He said: We are used to Sanaa's going back on its approval of previous initiatives. He added: There is no going back on the decision to separate Democratic Yemen. Al-Asnaj described the presence of northern forces in the South as occupation.

Al-Asnaj revealed some aspects of the initiative proposed by the southern leadership to resolve the Yemeni crisis. In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I, al-Asnaj said: The southern initiative was an integrated plan that came in harmony with Security Council Resolution 924. The plan, he added, took into consideration the idea of setting up a military committee in which the two sides are represented, in addition to the parties that were represented in the previous military committee before the outbreak of the military operations such as the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan, as well as the U.S. and French military attaches. He said that the Russian Federation also asked to participate in this committee, adding that the southern plan called for expanding international participation to include the rest of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Al-Asnaj said the southern party also proposed expanding the work of the committee to guarantee its success in entrenching a cease-fire by adding some sisterly Arab countries and representatives of the Arab League and some Asian and African countries to monitor cease-fire violations and the party that causes these violations, to ensure the arrival of humanitarian aid, and to achieve disengagement between the forces in light of the military situation, which is completely different from the picture drawn by news agencies.

Al-Asnaj said he considered the presences of northern forces in the south an occupation, noting that the removal of these forces is only a matter of time.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Aden government stressed that there will be no retreat from the declaration on the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen following the southerner's suffering from, and contempt for, a unity that was based on hegemony, tyranny, and annexation. He said the assessment of unity in the future must be left for the future generations after people recover from this painful experience to realize a more stable and untroubled unity that agrees with Yemeni realities.

Al-Asnaj revealed why the meeting between President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and UN Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi was delayed. He said: When we were in al-Mukalla, President al-Bid insisted we all must go to Aden so that the UN envoy can see for himself the extent of damage in the city and the deteriorating health and human conditions there. Ibrahimi, however, said he could not make the trip because UN regulations forbid its envoys from going into war zones and putting their lives in danger.

Al-Asnaj expected the UN secretary general to receive the report of his envoy soon and to present the report, after completing it, to the UN Security Council to take the necessary steps to implement Resolution 924.

Al-Asnaj explained that the southerners will call for an emergency UN Security Council session to discuss the northern violations that prevented the implementation of the UN resolution. The southern foreign minister underlined his accusations that foreign hands are prolonging the Yemeni war by providing military and political support to Northern Yemen, referring, particularly, to Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, and Iran. He said the prolongation of this war will have serious consequences on security and stability in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, especially in view of the important world interests in this region.

Al-Asnaj To Urge New UN Move Over Continuing War

PM1706131694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Al-Asnaj Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Urgent Contacts With Ghali To Urge New International Move"]

[Text] London—South Yemen Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has stressed that the southern leadership is going to seek urgent contacts with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali over the latest military developments.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Asnaj said that the south will urge the UN secretary general to make a move in the framework of the UN Security Council resolution, which authorizes him to brief the Security Council on developments in the situation in Yemen and to discuss the means capable of deterring the regime from violating international legitimacy and putting it in its place as an enemy of humanity and peace in the regime. The southern foreign minister accused President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of working to thwart the efforts being made by the UN secretary general and his special envoy to Yemen Lakhdar Ibrahimi to establish peace in Yemen.

He said that the continuation of the war declared by President Salih against the Yemeni people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen confirms his aggressive tendency and the untruthfulness of what he says, namely that he has accepted UN Security Council Resolution 924, which calls for an immediate cease-fire in Yemen. Al-Asnaj stressed that President's Salih forces, which are besieging Aden, have over the past two days shelled mosques, schools, and residential areas. And that they have fired more than seven rockets on the city, killing many children, women, and men in various parts of Lahij and Aden Governorates.

He also said that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is living under a big delusion, namely that he is still president of what used to be called the Republic of Yemen. He said that his attack on Aden and his haphazard bombardment of it have provoked feelings of anger in Arab, Islamic, and many other states.

The Yemeni minister, who is expected to arrive in Washington within the next 24 hours in the framework of southern diplomatic moves designed to rally political support for the new republic, added that the international community is tired of the northern leadership's attitudes after the confirmation of its noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolution, violation of the principles of the Islamic Shari'ah, and persistence in committing further war crimes. Al-Asnaj said that Sanaa's continuation of the war confirms its involvement in expansionist schemes of states outside Yemen designed to disrupt security and undermine stability in the region.

Staff Col al-Attas Appointed Chief of General Staff

LD1806230494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Republican Decree No. 11:

After taking cognisance of the document declaring the Democratic Republic of Yemen and of the Constitution, and upon the proposition submitted by the prime minister's office and the defense minister, the Presidential Council has decided the following:

Staff Colonel 'Umar Ali al-Attas is appointed chief of the general staff.

This decree shall become effective from its date and shall be published in the official gazette.

Signed: 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council

Former President Denies Involvement in Conflict

NC1806185694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jun (MENA)—Former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has denied that his supporters in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] or the General People's Congress are involved in the current tragic events in Yemen.

In statements he made to the MENA correspondent in Damascus, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed that his supporters are the victims of this bloody conflict between the sons of the Yemeni people. He said that he is very pained by the reports by press agencies and international and humanitarian organizations on the tragic situation in Aden.

President 'Ali Nasir was commenting on a recent newspaper report that former leaders from South Yemen are involved in the fighting against the YSP so as to rehabiliate themselves and avenge the incidents of January 1986 that led to his ousting from his position.

The former south Yemeni president held some parties in the Yemeni leadership, which he did not name, responsible for the political and military conflict in Yemen.

He stressed that there must be a return to dialogue and a cease-fire, that the Yemeni leaders have to abide by the spirit of the Pledge and Accord Document, and that they have to deal flexibly and realistically with the UN envoy's endeavors.

He reiterated that he will not assume any responsibility in Yemen while there is fighting or secession, adding that the problem is a political one, not a military one.

Sanaa Radio Reports South Raid on Power Station

JN1906144594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1404 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: In a desperate and treacherous criminal act, aircraft belonging to the traitorous rebels carried out an aggressive raid on the power generating station in the city of Mocha at 1415 today. This raid is part of a series of criminal actions carried out by this traitorous gang against economic and civilian installations and targets in our country that began with the firing of Scud missiles at defenseless civilians in Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, Zinjibar, and (al-Rahidah), and includes the shelling of vital installations in Aden, led by the Aden refinery and the power generating station in al-Hiswah. These attacks express this gang's profound enmity toward the people and their achievements, as well as its hostile desire to destroy the homeland and implement the scheme designed to fragment its unity.

The source added that these hideous criminal acts committed by the rebellious gang against economic targets and installations and residential areas in the cities come at a time when many vital installations and targets in Aden, where this criminal gang is entrenched, lie within the range of our valiant Armed Forces' artillery. Our Armed Forces, however, are extremely eager to preserve and protect these installations from this traitorous clique because they are the property of the homeland and the people, and also because the Armed Forces are complying with the leadership's strict instructions not to inflict any harm on these developmental achievements, which are the people's wealth and the fruit of their efforts and sweat.

Raid Reportedly Kills 17, Wounds 33

JN2006060894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following: In a desperate and treacherous criminal act, aircraft belonging to the traitorous rebels carried out an aggressive raid on the power generating station in the city of Mocha at 1415 yesterday. Preliminary reports indicate that this criminal action damaged the station, martyred 17 citizens, including children, women, and elderly people, and wounded 33 others. This raid is part of a series of criminal actions carried out by this traitorous gang against economic and civilian installations and targets in our country that began with the firing of Scud missiles at defenseless civilians in Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, Zinjibar, and al-Rahidah, and includes the shelling of vital installations in Aden, led by the Aden refinery and the power generating station in al-Hiswah. These attacks express this gang's profound enmity toward the people and their achievements, as well as its hostile desire to destroy the homeland and implement the scheme designed to fragment its unity.

The source added that these hideous criminal acts carried out by the rebellious gang against economic targets and installations and residential areas in the cities take place at a time when many vital installations and targets in Aden, where this criminal gang is entrenched, lie within range of our valiant Armed Forces' artillery. Our Armed Forces, however, are greatly concerned to preserve and protect these installations from this traitorous clique because they are the property of the homeland and the people, and also because the Armed Forces are complying with the leadership's strict instructions not to inflict any harm on these developmental achievements, which are the people's wealth and the fruit of their efforts and hard work.

Aden Defense Source Denies Raid

EA1906174594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] We have just received this news report. A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has categorically denied the report carried by the news media of the ruling military regime in Sanaa this evening that our military aircraft raided the city of al-Hudaydah and bombed the electricity-generating station at Mocha. The source confirmed that this report has absolutely no truth and is part of the cheap misleading information for which the stooges of the ruling military regime in Sanaa and their other news media have become famous for. This is known to everyone in the two parts of Yemen and, indeed, in the Arab homeland and the entire world.

The responsible source warned that this media report carried by the Sanaa media could be a new pretext to continue the shelling of the economic installations as well as the peaceful residential quarters in the Aden Governorate. The ruling military regime has grown accustomed to this recently after failing to achieve the strategic and military objectives of the war. This is a matter on which we cannot remain silent and it will be confronted with force.

Aden Reports North Firing Katyusha Rockets

LD1806095894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0811 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 18 Jun (KUNA)—Seventeen people have been wounded in fierce fighting at the fronts surrounding Aden. The fighting continued until the early hours of 18 June.

The northern forces managed last night—for the second consecutive day—to advance a personnel carrier mounted with Katyusha rockets in order to shell the port of Aden; however, the rockets fell on some residential areas close to the port. Other rockets fell on the area surrounding Aden airport, injuring 17 people.

Last Thursday, a northern Katyusha vehicle managed to penetrate southern defense lines in the Bi'r Ahmad area, some 30 km northwest of Aden, where it fired its rockets and hit a shipyard in the port area. Another vehicle managed at dawn yesterday to penetrate several kilometers inside the Sabr front, situated 30 km north of Aden, and fired its rockets, which hit a military camp near the area of Aden airport.

Sanaa Denies Firing Katyushas on Aden

JN1806053394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has said that Cairo radio quoted a so-called responsible source in Aden as saying that a military vehicle affiliated with the forces of unity and legitimacy carrying katyusha rockets apparently infiltrated the ranks of the rebellious and illegitimate forces and fired rockets on the Port of Aden. The radio said some shells fell on residential districts in the al-Tawwadi area in Aden.

At a time when we stress our categorical denial of the infiltration of any vehicle affiliated with our Armed Forces, and the impossibility of such an infiltration from the military point of view, we would like to say that this news report proves with categorical evidence that residential districts in Aden are being shelled from the military positions controlled by the forces of rebellion and secession inside Aden. This is with the aim of fastening the charge on the forces of unity and legitimacy and showing pictures of the victims of this criminal aggression, which is being carried out by the criminal secessionist gang against innocent civilians in valiant Aden. This is part of a failed attempt to draw world public sympathy.

The source stressed that the criminal, secessionist gang has not hesitated to commit the ugliest crimes against the homeland and the people. Through its repressive agencies and its militiamen, that gang is now exercising all types of pressure and torture against citizens in Aden. They take children, women, and elderly out of their homes by force, compel them to carry weapons, and push them into the combat lines and the crematorium of death.

Sanaa 'Source' Denies Fighting in Shabwah

JN1806093494 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 18 (INA)—The Yemen has utterly denied the eruption of battles in the oil-rich Shabwah Province.

A Yemeni official source said that reports circulated by the secessionists on the killing of 50 military men during the past 48 hours were groundless.

The source confirmed that Shabwah Province was now under control of the legitimate forces.

Shabwah Governor Comments

NC1806170594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] In a telephone call with MBC, oil minister of the self-declared government in Aden, Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, announced that the southern forces today repulsed an attack by the northerners from the area of (Raml al-Sab'atayn) toward Wadi Hadhramaut in an attempt to capture the city of Saywun. He added that the southern forces repulsed the northerners at a location 130 km west of Saywun, taking 28 northern soldiers prisoner. We have the following report from [MBC correspondent] in Shabwah Tawfiq Jazulit:

[Begin recording] [Jazulit] The Governorate of Shabwah in south Yemen is characterized by its harsh desert topography. It consists of valleys, plains, and barren areas. It is about 100 km wide and from the coast to the Saudi borders it is over 300 km long. Shabwah is considered one of the most difficult and dangerous fronts, especially since travelling from one area to another is very difficult, if not virtually impossible in some places. Shabwah's strategic importance is that it is oil-rich. Because of its large size, the southern forces are very spread out.

[Unidentified soldier] This force is merely the rear guard; the rest of our forces have advanced close to the capital of the governorate. Our closest positions to the capital are 10-15 km away.

[Jazulit] The governor of Shabwah and commander of its front, Ahmad al-Fayiz Sarimah, says his forces control some parts of the vast area of Shabwah.

[Sarimah] In Shabwah, we now control 95 percent of the region. We welcome you now, if you have the time, to travel with us to (Qirdan), Wadi Armah, al-Sa'id, al-Musayni'ah, Nisab, 'Azzan, and Mayfa'ah, except for the city of 'Ataq, which is no more than 5 square kilometers.

[Jazulit] With the respect to Shabwah's oil, the region's governor does not have any objections to allowing all Yemeni sides to use it so long as this is arranged through dialogue.

[Sarimah] If this is done through consent, negotiations, and Arab generosity, we do not mind sharing it with our brothers. This is a characteristic of the Arabs.

[Jazulit] The city of 'Ataq, which is about 50 km away from where we are now, is not considered by the military command to be a position of vital strategic importance like the oil wells that could play a decisive role in terminating the fighting between Aden and Sanaa. And the war goes on. [end recording]

Aden Reports Attacks by North, Southern Successes

Artillery Barrages Reported

EA1706173594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen Defense Ministry"; place and date not given]

[Text] Early this morning some of the peaceful populated suburbs of Aden were subjected to barbarous and random attacks by artillery and rockets from the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa. The shelling was accompanied by desperate attacking attempts from the same forces to advance on all fronts. However, our brave armed forces intercepted these forces, and inflicted crushing blows on them. They also inflicted heavy human and material losses on them, and forced them to withdraw.

20 Killed, Others Injured in Attacks

EA1806192594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] At a time when the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen] announces its agreement to arrangements for an urgent meeting between the two sides, the southern and northern sides, in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, in order that an agreement may be reached on a machinery to supervise the task of the cease-fire, and to establish it in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 observing any violation of it; and at a time when the DRY has informed Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, on the evening of 16 July about this, [passage omitted] the ruling military regime in Sanaa continued its flagrant challenge to the will of the Arab and international community. It embarked, since early this morning, on random and barbarous attacks with rockets and heavy, long-distance artillery against the peaceful residential areas in the suburbs of the city of Aden as well as against vital economic installations. This has resulted in the martyrdom of more than 20 persons, most of them children, women and the elderly, as well as a number of injuries.

This was accompanied by attempts to advance on all fronts towards the capital, Aden, a matter which compelled our defensive Armed Forces to repulse decisively this new aggression of the forces belonging to the ruling military regime in Sanaa. They stopped them from advancing. Battles were still continuing while this communique was being prepared. [passage omitted]

Aden Says Northern Attacks Continue

EA1806191494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Presidential Council"; place and date not given]

[Text] Despite the appeals of the world to the rulers of Sanaa to cease fire and to stop the shelling of vital economic installations and residential quarters, the Sanaa regime continued throughout today its shelling and barbarous acts and (?initiated) attacks on all front at about 1730 this evening. Our brave Armed Forces, as well as volunteers from the sons of our steadfast people, are repulsing them. We announce to the world our legitimate right to defend our territory and the honor of our womenfolk since the Sanaa regime does not respect any laws or values. Our Armed Forces, with God's will and assistance and in cooperation with the sons of our people, will repulse the attacks of the aggressors and will protect dauntless Aden. These barbarous attacks will only increase the steadfastness of the sons of our people in Aden and their challenge of the aggressors.

Downing of Northern Missiles Reported

LD1806230194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "an official source at the Defense Ministry in the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; place and date not given]

[Text] The city of Aden was subjected this evening to a surface to surface missile attack. The forces of the military regime ruling in Sanaa launched three surface to surface missiles toward the capital city of Aden. Our air defense systems confronted them and shot down two of them in mid-air while the third missile fell into the sea.

This failed savage missiles attack on the city of Aden falls within the framework of the flagrant defiance of the Arab and international will by the military savage regime in Sanaa.

The Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, while still exercising self-restraint, will not stand with hands tied amid the killing and destruction inflicted on our people by the adventurous gang of Al al-Ahmar.

Aden Reports More Shelling

EA1906170094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; place and date not given]

[Text] The ruling military regime in Sanaa has continued to defy and ignore all the positive Arab and international efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Yemen. The latest of these were intensive efforts by Egypt and its president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, to arrange a meeting between representatives of the two parts of Yemen in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, which should have been held today.

However, since early this morning the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa have resumed their random shelling and rocketing of peaceful residential areas in the city of Aden to kill civilians—women, children and the elderly—and destroy their homes. This follows the failure on the part of these forces to realize their strategic military ambitions of occupying our territory and forcing our people in democratic Yemen to submit to the adventurist authority of Sanaa by force of arms.

Also since this morning the forces of the ruling military regime have continued their attempts to advance towards Aden, but our defending Armed Forces repulsed them and prevented any advance by these enemy invading forces. Battles are continuing on all fronts following the refusal by the ruling military regime in Sanaa to listen to the voice of good sense and logic. Instead, it chooses to press on with its adventurist hostile operations against our people.

Successes Noted on Abyan, Southern Fronts

EA1906203294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1817 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen"; place and date not given]

[Text] Our heroic forces have repulsed the desperate attempted attacks launched throughout today by the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa on all the battlefronts and axes. First reports of results of the heroic operations undertaken by our forces defending the Abyan, Tawr-al-Bahah axes indicate that our forces succeeded in repulsing all the attempted attacks by the enemy and striking deadly blows, inflicting heavy loss of life and materiel.

On the Abyan axis, our forces destroyed four Katyusha rocket-launching vehicles, three enemy artillery guns and eight enemy tanks; the enemy suffered large numbers of dead and wounded.

On the southern axis, our forces destroyed four enemy military (Dushka) crews and two enemy tanks; the enemy suffered large numbers of dead and wounded. The morale of our forces is very high. They are totally and constantly prepared to inflict further defeats on the enemy invading forces.

Aden Source Vows Escalation If Ibrahimi Fails

NC1906163594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A responsbile source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen said that if the mission of UN Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi fails to stop the fighting in Yemen, the south Yemeni naval and air forces will concentrate their attacks on vital targets in north Yemen.

The source accused the Sanaa government of pursuing a policy of procrastination regarding the UN endeavors.

Resistance Fighters Successful in Khanfar Province

EA1906173094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] The popular resistance in the Province of Khanfar has succeeded in carrying out three fida'i operations in the areas of al-Masani and Ba Tays in which a number of fida'iyin [resistance fighters] took part. The resistance succeeded in hitting an enemy group and inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment.

Commentary Defends Government Actions Against South

JN1906075294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] What is being planned for the Yemen of unity and democracy, and what are the stands of its sons? We can ascertain that the conspiratorial plans against the Yemeni people and their unity are formidable. However, the united Yemeni people know very well that the objective is not only to fragment their unity but to ensure that the present and future generations remain preoccupied with fighting and disputes to keep Yemen engaged in futile conflicts.

One understands from the Arab and international moves on the current events in our country that there is more to the situation than meets the eye. There are those who support our unity and our people's aspirations. There are those who, surprisingly, adopt ambiguous stands. What is amazing, however, are the underhanded stands adopted by some sides. In spite of all this, our confidence in Almighty God will enable us to settle what is taking place in our country. Our asset and source of sustenance are our faith and our our people's abidance by unity and their eagerness to defend constitutional legitimacy. We also stress that our cause is purely a domestic affair, something which the brothers and friends should understand. Our acceptance of the proposals made by others is not an acceptance of interferences which conflict with the UN Charter and international laws, or harm our right to sovereignty and independence.

From this premise, we say that the gang of rebellion and treason, which has sold itself to the devil and sought to destroy the homeland and people's means, and undermine their unity will not succeed in attaining its designs and will not be able to salvage its base goals. Irrespective of the magnitude of the conspiracies and means available to the conspirators, our people will not yield. It goes without saying that thanks to our faith in our unity and respect for constitutional legitimacy, which embodies our will and our insistence to defend it, we will be capable of foiling all the attempts by those who conspire against our unity and who wager on the dirty secessionist clique which was discarded by the entire Yemeni people.

It should be understood that our respect for the endeavors that are made by international legitimacy comes from our belief that they stem from sympathy for our causes. This is because we are certain that the entire international community supports Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy. There is no excuse for any member of the international community to act otherwise because the entire world, under the new world order, should stand together to support peoples unity and democracy, and protect human rights and freedom. We believe that the entire international community supports Yemeni unity in line with the stands of the UN Security Council permanent members which support Yemeni unity, our democractic course, and our country's approach to a free market economy.

While emphasizing the importance for the members of the international community to support Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy, we must also remind of the need to respect the bases on which the new international order is being established. We should all work to entrench its concepts and enhance its traditions, far from motives stemming from interests or hegemony.

There is no doubt that the international community members, including the brothers, understand that what is taking place in the Republic of Yemen, the internationally recognized united political entity, is a domestic affair, and that the constitutional legitimacy government acts in a reasonable manner and in accordance with what its duties dictate and its sovereign rights, which authorize it to combat rebellion and the secessionist course of a treacherous and agent clique led by the so-called 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who will be arrested and brought to trial soon, God willing, so that he and his clique will receive severe punishment for their crimes against the people and homeland. God supports our people's decision and will make them triumph in their struggle to protect their unity and safeguard their dignity, democracy, and rights.

Yemeni Delegation Arrives To Explain Stand

JN1806104694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—A delegation of the Yemeni House of Representatives headed by Deputy Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi said that he will meet with the National Assembly speaker, as well as the leaders of professional and popular organizations and parties to explain to them the serious implications of the violation of constitutional legitimacy in Yemen by the secessionists. He will also explain to these Iraqi officials, he noted, the secessionists' efforts to abort unity, for which the Yemeni people have made great sacrifices.

Al-Kibsi added: Our visit to fraternal Iraq comes in implementation of a decision the Yemeni House of Representatives has made in this regard. The objective of this decision, he said, is to enlighten the Arab and Muslim nation, chief among which are the Iraqi kinfolk and leadership represented by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the epitome of the nation's heroism, about the true state of affairs in Yemen. The Iraqis, he went on to say, are the most concerned to safeguard unity and democracy, and the people endowed with the best experience in resisting injustice and aggression, thanks to the Mother of Battles they have waged to deter the sinful aggressors and traitorous rulers, who are subservient to foreigners.

The Yemeni parliamentarian noted the crimes the Yemeni secessionists are committing against the country's unity, security, and safety. He added: The war is not only one between rebels and legitimacy forces. It is also a war aimed against the Arab nation to humiliate it so that the enemies may achieve their goals and realize their ambitions in this part of the Arab homeland.

The Yemeni official concluded by saying that the Yemeni government and people take pride in the pan-Arab positions of Iraq under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also commended the leader president's heroic role in defending the causes of the Arab and Muslim nation against all forces of injustice, evil, and aggression that have targeted the present and future of this nation.

Ramadan Meets With Delegation

JN1806160494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1433 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a Yemeni parliamentary delegation led by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, a member of the Yemeni House of Representatives. During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's unchanging stand on the recent events in Yemen. He said Iraq supports Yemeni unity and legitimacy. He said the enemies are working to partition united countries into several parts to facilitate the achievement of their colonialist ambitions, to control them, and to interfere in their internal affairs.

He said the unity of Yemeni territory and people is a source of strength for the Arab nation, and that the support extended to the separatists by some Arab rulers provides another piece of evidence that those agents' are conspiring against the Arab nation in a bid to dismember it, on orders from colonialist powers.

The Yemeni parliamentary delegation leader expressed high appreciation and great pride in the heroic stand of President Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people. He said the Iraqi people have become an example and a model for steadfastness and sacrifices, through which they have scored great victories and thwarted conspiracies and aggressions. He indicated that the Yemeni people will fight in defense of the one homeland and the one people, and that they will thwart this chapter of conspiracy against Yemen and the Arab nation.

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan also received Pascal Jacquino [name as transliterated], head of the diplomatic and strategic institute in France and head of the higher school for the press, and his delegation. The vice president stressed that many states are suffering economic and security problems as a result of the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the continued blockade imposed on its people. He indicated that continued U.S. hegemony and efforts to implement U.S. ambitions and colonialist policies will jeopardize world peace and security. He said America's allies have lost their independent decisionmaking ability and their sovereignty.

He indicated that the disagreement of most UN Security Council member states with the U.S. Administration is considered a defeat for America and a victory for Iraq, because Iraq has managed to thwart all America's conspiratorial, aggressive, and misleading tactics on the military, economic, political, and propagandist fronts.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that Iraq will remain as it has always been throughout history—with a united land and people, Arabs and Kurds, rallying around their leader and symbol, Saddam Husayn and his wise and brave leadership, which has made the Iraqi people a model for emulation by countries that adhere to their principles, defend their objectives, and reject humiliation and subservience.

Pascal Jacquino expressed confidence in Iraq's prosperous future in view of its rich human and material potential and the progress that it has achieved in the march of reconstruction. He stressed the importance of promoting Iraqi-French relations in the service of the two countries' common interests.

'Aziz Receives Delegates

JN1806192494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received a Yemeni House of Representatives delegation led by House member Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, al-Kibsi reviewed developments in the situation and the true state of affairs in Yemen. He stressed that all popular forces, political parties, and the House of Representatives agree on opposing the conspiracy of secession and maintaining the unity of Yemen.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed Iraq's support for Yemen's unity and constitutional legitimacy. He said Iraq condemns any separatist attempt or interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, and the Yemeni ambassador in Baghdad.

Yemeni Deputy Holds News Conference

JN1806201494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1847 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, head of the Yemeni House of Representatives delegation [visiting Iraq], has stressed that those who are conspiring against the unity and independence of the Yemeni people are the same who are conspiring against the unity and independence of the people of fraternal Iraq.

Addressing a news conference attended by Arab and foreign press and television correspondents, as well as an INA correspondent, al-Kibsi said the Yemeni people and the legitimate and constitutional government today face a manifestation of the secessionists' opposition to the will of the Yemeni people, with their various segments and political and social forces. It is a manifestation of their rejection of the democratic option Yemen has chosen since the realization of immortal unity. [passage omitted]

He stressed that in the recent battles, the legitimate and constitutional forces achieved successive victories against the remnants of the separatists, who have been forced to retreat into Aden. He said those victories have provided new pieces of evidence that prove conspiratorial and treasonous coordination between the secessionists and Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. He said the legitimate and constitutional forces have seized sophisticated weapons and military hardware, comprising a squadron of Sukhoi-22 planes, a battalion of T-72 tanks, in addition to 18 heavy guns, each worth over $5 million. He said the secessionists do not have money to purchase such weapons, adding that these weapons, which have been seized by the legitimate and constitutional forces, are categorical proof of the subordination of that secessionist gang to the powers that do not want Yemeni unity to last. [passage omitted]

Asked by INA about Yemen's concept regarding the Arab stand on Yemeni events, the stand of the legitimate and constitutional Yemeni leadership regarding formulas to end the war completely, and the military developments on the battlefield, al-Kibsi said: When fraternal Iraq was exposed to American aggression and to the blockade that is still imposed on its people, the Arabs took positions ranging from those who understood the Iraqi position and were opposed to the aggression and the blockade, to those who adopted the opportunistic and reactionary position of a lackey who did not want the Arab nation to rise via the rise of the Iraqis. The latter stood by the aggression on Iraq and mobilized all their political, material, and military resources against Iraq. They are repeating this stand now against the constitutional Yemeni government and people because they do not want the nation to unite. Moreover, they took this stand because Yemen stood by its Arab brothers in Iraq during the unjust aggression, despite the fact that the Yemeni events are an internal issue and not a dispute or war between Yemen and another external power.

Al-Kibsi said Iraq's position on the current Yemeni events is an honorable national and pan-Arab position and has had a great effect on the morale of the united Yemeni people.

Al-Kibsi said Yemen rejects any kind of interference in its internal affairs, including interference in the recent events, because what is happening in Yemen today is that secessionist forces are standing against the nationalist and constitutional forces of legitimacy, something that should be rejected by all patriotic, noble, and zealous Arabs.

Al-Kibsi said: While we are tightening the grip militarily on the besieged secessionists in Aden, we also support peace from a position of military and political capability. We are ready for a peaceful solution to save our people in southern Yemen from the perils of bloodshed. This is because the renegade secessionist al-Bid compels innocent citizens to withdraw along with him whenever there is military pressure by the forces of constitutional legitimacy. These forces are now no more than 25 km from Aden, the secessionists' major stronghold.

He said a constitutional and legitimate Yemeni dialogue should be held with the unionist and nationalist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and not with its renegade secessionist elements. He pointed out that many nationalist and unionist socialists are now fighting alongside the forces of constitutional legitimacy against the secessionist gang on various combat fronts. Others in Aden are facing pressures by the intelligence elements and henchmen of the renegade secessionist al-Bid.

Al-Kibsi explained that the secessionists declared a government that no one recognized and that is rejected by the nationalists and unionists in the YSP itself. Some elements in this party were sentenced to death by the YSP itself. He pointed out that the secessionist group, which claims that it is the government in southern Yemen, is actually an agent of Saudi Arabia and it only consists of those who were in Saudi Arabia. No one has recognized or will recognize this group because the whole world, including the United Nations and the Arab League, recognize only the Republic of Yemen.

The head of the Yemeni House of Representatives delegation said each Yemeni citizen throughout the Yemeni homeland has much love and appreciation for Iraq and its leader and people for their sincere and honorable nationalist positions. He explained that his visit to Baghdad, along with the accompanying delegation, is part of parliamentary efforts designed to clarify facts about what is taking place in Yemen.

Assembly Speaker Meets With Delegation

JN1906125894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih last night received a delegation of the Yemeni House of Representatives headed by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal bilateral parliamentary ties and the means to promote them. They also reviewed the current state of affairs on the Arab and international scenes, as well as the conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation to undermine its unity.

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi addressed the developments in Yemen, and the imperialist conspiracies concocted against it in an attempt to undermine its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Several National Assembly members attended the meeting.

Columnist: Saudis Encouraging 'Separatism' in Yemen

JN1406164994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by 'Adil Sa'd: "The Saudi Regime and Plotting Against Yemeni Unity"]

[Text] It is not strange for the Saudi regime to create false justifications in order to plot against Yemeni unity and to obtain regional and international supporters for the renegade separatists in Aden.

This regime, which is known for its agentry, plotting, and hiring of mercenaries and for its background as the outcome of a well-known imperialist deal, cannot but shun any Arab unionist trend and exploit every geographical and political factor in order to foster factionalism and fighting so as to protect its political entity first and also because such a course enables it to indulge in its treasonous policy.

What the Saudi regime has done to Yemen is known and proven by events and facts. It has continued to openly plot against Yemen from the moment the Yemenis opted for the republican political system. The Saudis dispatched large numbers of mercenaries and agents with the aim of returning Yemen to the era of misguidance, backwardness, and decadence. They used border wars, assassinations, disturbances, and economic siege. They expelled more than one million Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia and deprived them of their properties and financial rights during the U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq. They also plotted against the Document of Pledge and Accord, which the Yemenis signed in February this year, when they received the renegade 'Ali Salim al-Bid in order to spite Yemeni constitutional legitimacy and to throw a wrench into the accord and thus bring it to standstill. This development encouraged al-Bid to disavow the document and to harp once more on the tune of separatism.

The insistence of agent Fahd's regime on pushing matters in Yemen toward internationalization is contrary to the Arab League and UN charters. What has happened so far in the Security Council concerning Yemen also constitutes blatant interference in Yemen's internal affairs.

Real concern for Yemen calls for preserving its constitutional legitimacy, which has come as a result of the Yemeni people's democratic choice. The logic of protecting Yemen and preserving its security and the safety of its people and stemming the present copious flow of blood calls for safeguarding the unity of this noble Arab country, not encouraging separatism.

Bandar Assailed for Urging UN Role in Yemen

JN1406165694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Jun 94 p 1

[Article: "This 'Bandar' Is Like That 'Fahd' and Both Are Soaked in Agentry"—signed "AL-THAWRAH"]

[Text] If "Uncle" Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's conspiratorial stands against the nation and its aspirations for unity and awakening are exposed and known to have been plotted by the United States, which brought his family to power in implementation of a spiteful plan against all the Arabs, the stands of the nephew, Bandar Bin-Sultan, are similar to the dirty stands of the uncle, and they are all directed against will of the Arab nation.

The moment you mention Bandar, Arabs and non-Arabs will immediately tell you that he is a protege of the U.S. administration and the carrier of the purse of bribes, which he uses to buy the consciences of government departments and institutions that influence U.S. decisionmaking and harm the Arabs and their interests. It is well-known that Bandar was the link between his uncle's policy and Bush's move to create the atmosphere that paved the way for the 30-state aggression against our people. Whoever did not submit to the pressure of the U.S. administration received his share from the purse of the illicit funds that were set aside for such instigation and evil purposes and killing the honorable sons of the Arab nation.

Bandar was behind all the arms deals that Saudi Arabia had to make, although it had no practical or real defense need for them. He is an active commission agent who managed to clinch those very costly arms deals, which depleted the Saudi treasury for no reason other than showing loyalty to his overlords by paying off the bills of the aggression against Iraq.

Whoever follows Bandar's moves will discover that he is an obedient servant who has personally volunteered to call for the normalization of relations with the Zionist entity and to publicize the idea of ending the Arab boycott of Western states that deal with that racist regime at a time when scores of martyrs from the sons of our Palestinian people continue to sacrifice their pure blood in defense of their Palestinian soil.

In harmony with the conspiratorial role assumed by the regime of his uncle, who is known for his grudge against everything that represents goodness on the Arab land, Bandar is presently working hard on a new conspiratorial move. This one is against Yemeni unity by seeking justifications for the UN Security Council interference in Yemen's internal affairs in favor of the separatist clique led by the renegade 'Ali Salim al-Bid and in continuation of Saudi Arabia's policy which, since the establishment of Yemeni unity, has been backing the separatists and providing them with funds and arms bought from Washington in fulfillment of a conspiratorial aim against the aspirations of the Yemeni people, who adhere to legitimacy and unity and its great achievements and to the democratic experiment that was strengthened under unity.

By his new cheap conspiratorial moves, Bandar only reveals his true mettle. For, he is not only following in the footsteps of his uncle and father, but also in the footsteps of those who run Washington's brothels. For he is known to be the man of its red nights, as was his "Uncle" Fahd before that when he was its captive and was being prepared for today's tasks.

Whoever is soaked in agentry cannot but drip vileness, meanness, and grudge and stand in the rank of the enemies of the nation. This "Bandar" is like that "Fahd."

Rabin Denies 'Arafat Appeal To Open Jerusalem

TA1706132994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jun 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, 'Aqiva Eldar, Yerah Tal, and Sharon Sade]

[Excerpt] In his reply to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel has significantly eased the closure on the territories but will not lift it totally. 'Arafat was given data showing that 45,000 permits for work in Israel have already been given to residents of the territories and that the entry of women and of youths up to the age of 15 is no longer restricted.

'Arafat had called on Rabin to ease the plight of the residents of the territories, lift the closure and the restrictions on work in Israel, open the roadblocks at the entrances to Jerusalem, and immediately transfer to the Palestinian Authority funds from taxes and customs Israel has imposed on the Palestinians. This amount comes to approximately 6 million shekels, and Israel is holding on to the funds until accounts are settled with the Palestinian Authority.

Rabin informed 'Arafat that Israel will meet its commitments but will not be able to go beyond that. Israel will also not lift the roadblocks at the entrances to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

USAID E. Jerusalem Proposal Sparks Concern

TA1706134294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jun 94 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] The United States has informed Israel of its intention to open an office of the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] in East Jerusalem to oversee financial aid to the Palestinian Autonomy in Jericho.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem view the U.S. plan with concern, and the matter has been transferred to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to decide how Israel will respond to the U.S. initiative.

The U.S. Administration has undertaken to grant $500 million to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho in the coming five years. USAID Director Brian Atwood is due to arrive here in the coming days for talks with policymakers in Jerusalem and with the Palestinian Authority on the establishment of an office in Jerusalem and ways to oversee the distribution of funds.

The political sources expressed concern yesterday that the U.S. office, which may be set up in East Jerusalem, would be seen as a basis for possible future recognition of East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. U.S. Ambassador Djerejian informed the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem of the intention to set up the office inside the U.S. Consulate in the city.

Another item on Jerusalem: The Foreign Ministry has informed foreign embassies here of Israel's negative view of the intention to set up interests offices in Jericho to work with the Palestinian Authority there. It should be noted that an "interests office" is diplomatic jargon signifying one stage in official recognition between two independent entities. [passage omitted]

MK Submits Bill To Outlaw Palestinian Institutions

TA1806084094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Having received the blessing of senior government elements, Knesset House Committee Chairman Yehoshu'a Matza has submitted a bill prohibiting the existence of Palestinian institutions and societies in East Jerusalem in violation of the relevant basic law. The new bill says that Palestinian institutions inherently reject the existence of the State of Israel.

Knesset Member Matza told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the officials with whom he coordinated his bill were frustrated by the fact that a similar bill initiated by the prime minister had fallen through.

Sha'th Said To Postpone Jerusalem Visit

TA1906132794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] At the conclusion of his meeting with Nabil Sha'th at the Erez checkpoint a short while ago, Major General Amnon Shahaq said that Sha'th would apparently not visit Jerusalem tomorrow due to changes in his schedule.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that Maj. Gen. Shahaq said that Nabil Sha'th had asked him to increase the number of entry permits for Palestinian workers from the autonomous areas. Shahaq, for his part, raised the issue of the collaborators who have been arrested in the autonomous areas. The two men agreed that this matter, as well as the issue of the Palestinian prisoners, would be discussed at their meeting next week.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 19 June reports that "Maj. Gen. Shahaq and Nabil Sha'th this afternoon agreed that Israel and the PLO will next week launch negotiations on the beginning of the next stage: The gradual transfer of powers in Judaea and Samaria to the Palestinian authorities." The report notes that "next week, the two men will also discuss the full implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and the release of all the Palestinian prisoners, including those who were transferred to Jericho. Nabil Sha'th asserted that he intended to visit Jerusalem tomorrow; however, this also depended on how busy he would be in the Gaza Strip. At any rate, Sha'th said, his intention was to hold a private visit and to people he described as friends, such as Faysal al-Husayni, visit the churches, and pray at al-Aqsa mosque." The report adds that "Nabil Sha'th and Maj. Gen. Shahaq today agreed that at the beginning of next week, 30,000 permits to work inside Israel would be issued to the residents of the Gaza Strip. It was also agreed that the families of the Palestinian policemen would immediately be allowed to enter Israel. The Army will also ease the policy regarding entry and departure from the autonomous areas."]

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Nabil Sha'th's planned visit to Jerusalem and the intention to convene the autonomy council at the Orient House building were raised today at the weekly cabinet session. The speakers at the meeting expressed doubts as to whether the autonomy council would really be convened in Jerusalem. The cabinet was told that in general, the territories were more quiet, although the autonomy authorities had failed to meet the timetable for assuming responsibility over the residents' daily affairs.

The cabinet revoked the ban against signing contracts with South Africa following the Security Council's decision to end the military embargo and other restrictions against South Africa.

The cabinet also issued another 10,000 work permits for laborers from the territories. Approximately 55,000 work permits for Palestinians from the territories have been issued so far.

Settler Warns Rabin of 'Political Assassination'

TA1906113194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shagray]

[Text] Aharon Domb, a member of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza sent a personal letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a few weeks ago warning him of plans by "the extreme and fringe right-wing" to carry out "a political assassination." Answering HA'ARETZ's question, Domb said he had no information about a specific plan, but "recently I have been hearing too much talk too often about despair and political assassinations with regard to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Minister Shulamit Aloni, or other ministers."

Domb emphasized that he had sent his letter to Rabin as a private citizen, not as a council member or spokesman. Among other things, Domb wrote the prime minister: "Such an assassination, God forbid, would be very serious in all respects and we must do our very best to prevent it. For our part, we are making every possible effort, but I nevertheless see fit to apprise you of it."

In his letter Domb analyzed the feelings of despair that bring people to such thoughts. "As far as many Israelis are concerned, the lack of solidarity on your part and on that of most other Israeli cabinet ministers with the suffering of Jews in Ashdod, 'Afula, Hadera, Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza creates a horrible sense of alienation. Many of them have translated this alienation into despair, and in some of them this despair might degenerate into extreme acts of despair with the potential to rock Israel's very foundations."

Yehi'el Leiter, director general of the council's foreign desk, recently published an article abroad entitled "To Avert the Worst." Leiter asks "Is a political assassination possible in Israel today?" and his answer is no. "I wish my 'no' could be more categorical. However, we can no longer ignore the possibility of a lunatic political assassination attempt by a Jewish extremist," Leiter wrote.

"In the two months before the massacre in Hebron," Leiter recalls, "the assessments indulged in by political commentators were not about the likelihood of a massacre, but of the resurgence of a Jewish underground. What happened in the field totally differed from the predictions. Today, in the wake of the Hebron events, those same commentators are anxious about a second Hebron. However, this time, too, events may very well differ from predictions. What is at stake now is so fateful that a political assassination—the most abominable and cowardly form of political opposition—has become a real possibility, albeit appalling. A political assassination by a Jewish extremist," Leiter warns in his article, "deserves to be deplored not just on moral grounds. It will most probably spell an end to the entire settlement endeavor.

"If anybody thought the attack at the Cave of the Patriarchs would be so dramatic and radical as to bring about the suspension of the talks with the PLO, he has in the meantime found the exact opposite to be true: the settlers bore the blame, while 'Arafat reaped the fruit. If a Jew tries to hurt a cabinet minister, the government will have an easier time holding all its political opponents collectively responsible, and there is no doubt that it will do that.

"Such an event could also be used as an excuse to abolish the interim phase of the agreement, which is now being described by some as impractical, and proceed immediately to implement the final phase, or as the mayor of Hebron recently put it, 'the final solution.'" In his article Leiter proposes that the government realize that the path it has adopted is leading to a horrible and dangerous split in the population. Addressing himself to the right wing, Leiter proposes to it to channel its wrath and anxiety into a violent civil uprising.

Rabin 'Furious' at Minister's Remarks Abroad

TA1906172094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 p A3

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to summon Minister Mikha Harish when the latter returns from abroad in order to demand that Harish explain his complaints to Israeli correspondents in the United States about the prime minister's ostensibly rude and insulting attitude to his ministers.

Officials close to the prime minister claimed that Rabin was furious at Harish, less over the content of his remarks then about the fact that he made them while on an official trip abroad. "The amazing thing is that Harish, who holds many private meetings with Rabin, never expressed any such grievances to the prime minister," one of Rabin's close associates said.

Several ministers justified Harish's criticism of Rabin, but insisted that their statements be kept off the record. One of the ministers said that Harish was not the only one who had been offended by boorish remarks from Rabin.

Ministers expressed the assessment that Harish's statements came in the wake of an incident between him and the prime minister that took place at a recent cabinet session. When Harish started to leave the meeting, which had gone on for a long time, Rabin asked him where he was going. Harish replied that people were just "chattering away" at the meeting while he had work to do. Rabin got very angry and ordered Harish to stay. "Listen to the idle chatter and do your work later tonight," Rabin told the minister who was forced to stay until the cabinet session was over.

In another instance, Rabin questioned the need for a trip abroad by Harish, which greatly annoyed the industry and trade minister.

Labor party sources noted that if Harish criticizes the prime minister in such an open and blunt fashion, then Rabin's position as Labor party chairman is indeed very shaky. On the other hand, a minister who supports Rabin said that Harish's remarks should be viewed in the context of the "future primaries" in the Labor party.

Rabin Criticizes Histadrut, CC Officials

TA1906164694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] At the Labor party's Central Committee [CC] meeting today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin criticized both Histadrut trade federation officials and central committee members. He said that the responsibility for the party's failure in the recent Histadrut elections lay with the Histadrut members. Rabin expressed disappointment with the party's central committee and complained that half of its members had been appointed through various party machinations. However, the prime minister asserted, elections to change the current composition of the central committee would be held prior to the next Knesset elections.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that throughout the speech, the hostility between Rabin and the Labor Central Committee members was evident, and the prime minister's speech was constantly interrupted by catcalls. Yitzhaq Rabin warned the central committee members that if the new Histadrut secretary general was not nominated by August, it would mean a death sentence for the Histradrut sick fund. He attacked those who violated the party bureau's decisions with regard to establishing a coalition with the Ramon-Meretz Histadrut list, and said that there was no room in the party for people who broke agreements. Our correspondent adds that when Gershon Gelman, the secretary general of the Tel Aviv workers council, stepped up to the podium, Yitzhaq Rabin stood up and stormed out of the hall, sparking an uproar. Many participants yelled that because of Gelman, the Labor party had lost 40 worker council branches.

Peres, Rabin View Relations, Labor Politics

TA1906194894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, following the meeting of Labor's Central Committee on 19 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The crisis in the ruling party is worsening. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today found it difficult to have his say at the meeting of Labor's Central Committee due to catcalls directed against him by Labor members. At the same time, our correspondent has learned that on 21 June, Shim'on Peres will convene about 40 of his main supporters for a meeting the kind of which has not taken place in Labor for a long time. Relations between Rabin and Peres may be growing tense again, so let us hear their reactions.

[Begin recording] [Rosen, addressing Peres] Knesset members [MK's] say there is no master in Labor today.

[Peres] I am not an commentator on MK's.

[Rosen] Has the prime minister lost control over Labor?

[Peres] I am a cabinet member. I do not intend to criticize the prime minister.

[Rosen] If you were Labor's chairman, what would you have done to rehabilitate the party?

[Peres] When I was Labor chairman I did what I needed to do. Take a look at what I did.

[Rosen] You know that it is said now that the Peres camp is revived.

[Peres] Look, I am not prepared to deal with rumors. Let people speak.

[Rosen] Is there no truth to this?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, there are no camps in the party today, nor is it necessary to revive them.

[Rosen] Do you intend to take part in the negotiations over the Histadrut coalition so as to help finalize matters?

[Peres] If I am requested to do so, I will. I will not initiate this however.

[Rosen, addressing Rabin] The Central Committee was not so sympathetic to you, if I am not mistaken.

[Rabin] I have already said on several occasions, in better times too, that if I were up for election in this committee I would not have been elected. I was elected through primaries.

[Rosen] Do you believe this committee will be replaced in the next elections?

[Rabin] I assume that before the next elections we will have a party convention and institutions will be elected there. I hope these elections will be democratic.

[Rosen] How does one emerge from the muddle in Labor?

[Rabin] I am not worried. My problem is to emerge from the Histadrut muddle.

[Rosen] Do you feel there is some problem or tension between you and the foreign minister?

[Rabin] I think we have a correct work relationship. There is unpleasant past experience, but we are also united about the future.

[Rosen] What is the situation today then?

[Rabin] The situation is alright.

[Rosen] Do you think your attitude toward the ministers is usually correct?

[Rabin] I hope so.

[Rosen] Do you not hear complaints from them sometimes?

[Rabin] Look, I am a prime minister. I have supreme responsibility. When the right wing demonstrates against something, they demonstrate against me, not the ministers. Responsibility also means authority. [end recording]

Peres on Postponement of Christopher Visit

TA1906200494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that the postponement of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit does not point to a deadlock in negotiations with Syria. Christopher wants a little more progress to be achieved before the visit, and he apparently decided to wait a little while longer, Peres said.

'Secret' Ministry Paper Views Ties With U.S.

TA2006115694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 94 p B3

[From the "I Saw, I Heard" column by Amnon Barzilay: "This Is Christopher, Not Kissinger"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Relations between the Israeli and the U.S. Governments have never been better. This is the gist of a document drafted by the Foreign Ministry's Policy Planning Division on relations between the two countries. The threat of U.S. pressure has always hovered over Israel's head; however, according to the document, which is classified as secret, this threat has been withdrawn because of the breakthrough in the peace talks. Washington considers Israel an ally.

The most important piece of news regards the annual U.S. aid, to the tune of $3 billion. Until about a year ago, there was talk of a certain gradual reduction in U.S. foreign aid. The Policy Planning Division believes that the United States has no intention of cutting foreign aid to Israel. The division even goes as far as stating that "there is a promise that if Israel becomes more vulnerable, the United States will agree to give (Israel) more aid and more access to technology." It may be assumed, therefore, that the scope of the foreign aid Israel receives will only be changed in one of two instances: If the Israeli Government halts the political process, the aid will be cut. If, on the other hand, it should decide to "take additional risks"—a euphemism for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights—the United States may increase the aid.

And yet, one aspect of the Foreign Ministry document casts a shadow on Israeli-U.S. relations. It has to do with the U.S. secretary of state's determination to promote the peace talks with Syria. These remarks, worded very vaguely, caused a slight shock in Jerusalem and in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. The embassy decided to react, because Itamar Rabinovich is not only the ambassador but he also heads the Israeli team on the talks with Syria.

A week ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres received a classified telegram from Rabinovich, written after a consultation was held at the embassy. Some of the senior embassy political staff claimed that the Planning Division document was politically inspired by Foreign Ministry officials. The embassy agrees that the U.S. Administration does not attribute the same degree of importance to foreign policy as did previous administrations. The debate is about whether Christopher is doing enough. The document makes one feel that Planning Division personnel are not convinced that the Americans can be trusted to use the momentum in order to bring about a breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria.

The Washington embassy discussion ended with different conclusions. It is true that the negotiations with Syria are stuck and that things will move slower than expected, but the embassy does not believe that this delay poses a threat to the entire process.

The ambassador's report to his political staff indicates that there never was a situation in which the American peace team was not attentive or ready to take action to promote peace. Embassy staffers claim that the ball is indeed in the Syrian court. This is the stage at which al-Asad is called upon to come up with better answers for Israel. Therefore, there is nothing wrong with the secretary of state delaying his visit as long as al-Asad is not delivering the goods.

Washington has discerned signals of distress in Syria—for example, in the Syrian media attacks on Israel last week. Syria is concerned about the progress in the process with the Palestinians and the developments between Israel and Jordan. Christopher's delayed Middle East visit made al-Asad feel pressured. If Israel also pushes Christopher, the embassy said, it will be asking for pressure in return. [passage omitted]

Peres Reviews Middle East Peace Process

BR1706142994 Esch-sur-Alzette TAGEBLATT in French 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Article signed DF: "Mr. Shim'on Peres on the Middle East—More a Philosopher Than a Politician"]

[Text]

"Let Us Not Build the Future on Yesterday's Ramparts"

As a guest of Mr. Armand Clesse and the Institute for European and International Studies [IEEI], Mr. Shim'on Peres captivated a large and attentive audience at noon yesterday [14 June] in the European Center's amphitheater.

The initiator of the Gaza and Jericho agreements and a tireless champion of peace in the Middle East, Israel's foreign minister did not disappoint his audience. Quite the opposite! His philosophy of life, his analysis of the region's future, his views on the past are a splendid lesson in political dignity and human warmth.

After the session was declared open by Armand Clesse, [Luxembourg] Foreign Minister and long-time friend Jacques Poos introduced Shim'on Peres to the assembly. He praised his Israeli counterpart, a pioneer of the State of Israel, a man who studied with David Ben-Gurion, an activist and official in Israel's Socialist Party, a military expert, a former prime minister, and the mastermind of Operation Jonathan which freed Jews held hostage on Entebbe Airport in 1984.

But Shim'on Peres is much more than all this, as Jacques Poos did not fail to point out. Above all, as key negotiator with the PLO, it was he who brought about the historic agreement signed in Washington, he who made it possible for one of the ideas he holds dearest to his heart to come true: the process toward Palestinian self-determination and the surrender of the occupied territories. The Gaza-Jericho agreement is a crowning achievement for this visionary and genuine champion of peace. A man, as Jacques Poos pointed out, who understood that economic interdependence is peace's strongest bulwark, much stronger than any diplomatic or military treaty.

"The Luxembourg Government and myself wish you good luck for the future," the Luxembourg foreign minister concluded.

The Lesson of Communism's Failure

"I am neither as good as you believe nor as bad as you say." Such was Mr. Peres' humorous opening remark. Everything that happened in the Soviet Union was unexpected. Experts are always more adept with the past than the future. The Communist regime suddenly collapsed in the USSR without external intervention. In South Africa, or earlier in Argentina, change occurred in the same way. From the inside, because the time was ripe.

Mr. Peres noted that communism's failure has caused a series of changes which have left us bewildered, in a way. Our traditional foes and the dangers they represented do not exist any more and at the same time our traditional landmarks have disappeared and we lack ready-made recipes for solving new problems. It used to be easy for a U.S. president to get Congress to allocate the money needed to fight Communism. But convincing Congress to mobilize against nuclear perils is a different matter.

What Did Communism's Failure Bring?

The fall of communism showed that a modern power and economy have nothing whatsoever to do with a philosophy, and that there is no relationship between a country's geographical dimension and its intelligence. Of course, Shim'on Peres added with a smile, the gap between the intelligence of the Russian people and the lack of intelligence of Communist leaders was never more conspicuous than in the former Soviet Union.

From the moment that size loses its value, the importance of armies and wars becomes very small. Indeed, one cannot conquer intelligence. As a result, we are on the verge of a new age and attitude. Notions of borders, sovereignty, political regimes become fuzzy. One has to admit that there are much more important factors, such as science, economics, information, habits, clean air.

The Impact of Information

The most significant revolution we have known in the second half of this century is the information revolution. Any dictatorship loses power as soon as it becomes impossible to conceal its reality. And information flows through borders, it brings up questions we must answer. No one can stop it, says Shim'on Peres, and we had better look at new thinkers rather than old enemies. This is true for the Middle East as for the rest of the world.

To think rather than to remember, this is what matters. Because memory, according to Mr. Peres, is very flexible.

A Peaceful Region

Thus the agreements entered into with Egypt or the Palestinians—bilateral agreements—already belong to the past, as it were. The contention between Israel and the Palestinians was not all that serious, he said. And yet it turned into one of the most complicated problems of the second half of the twentieth century. However, he added, we shall have no peace as long as the Middle East as a whole has not become a peaceful region, since peace cannot stop at borders either. And missiles overtake it easily. As an example, Mr. Peres refered to a missile launched in Moscow which can hit Washington six minutes later.

The solution is obvious: A regional arrangement is needed. This requires economic development. And a modern economy cannot be based on the past, be it only because competition takes over domination. Therefore what is needed is technology and the ability to innovate. To win, Mr. Peres said, one must create. Because economics can also generate trouble. For instance, Israel would be seriously mistaken to believe it exists in a vacuum and forget about what is happening around it.

A Common Market

What the Middle East needs is a common market, Mr. Peres explained. "Marshall Plans" are no longer appropriate. Such a plan would be a waste of money. On the contrary, what is needed is money to fuel the economy.

He reminded his audience that in the Middle East, $1 trillion is spent on weaponry. Half of this colossal amount would have been enough to save all the countries in the region.

How can a common market be created? By remembering the origins of the EEC, and by gradually building common structures.

Mr. Peres advocated a step-by-step approach, the first two steps being tourism development and a solution to the irrigation problem.

Developing tourism is relatively easy, he said. This is a light industry and the Middle East's architectural heritage is a major asset. For instance, one could think of a tour including Egypt's pyramids, the Petra Palaces in Jordan, and Jerusalem. This would be a tangible approach to regional development. "If I must choose between 10,000 blue berets and 10,000 tourists," he said subsequently, "I would obviously choose the tourists."

As for irrigation, he points out that the region's population doubles every 14 years. And 89 percent of the region is already in a state of desertification. Turning this space into fertile land would be a major progress. Mr. Peres indicated that in 25 years, Israel has managed to increase its soil 12-fold.

Water is not an insoluble problem, Shim'on Peres said. This is the only way to guarantee a new future for the next generations.

Europe Can Help

Politically, a CSCM [Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean] should be created based on a three-pronged foundation: security, economy, and human rights. Europe must play a role in this, it must take part in the construction of the Middle East. If it made use of its over-productivity which creates unemployment, if firms—and many of them have enough money for this—came and invested in the region, [Europe would] succeed in ridding itself of its excessive productivity while helping the Middle East, Mr. Peres stressed. And he suggested combining two investment types: public and private. He considered this a worthwhile approach for the future.

Mr. Peres concluded by saying that we are nearing the end of the century. Its first half was difficult, plagued with war, and the Holocaust. Its second half could prove more auspicious if we succeed in changing our behavior before it is too late, and if we surrender our urge to build the future on yesterday's ramparts.

Envoy to Seoul Comments on DPRK Missile Sales

SK1906015694 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 19 Jun 94

[YONHAP report from Jerusalem]

[Text] Na'im Asher, Israeli ambassador to the ROK, expressed worry over the fact that North Korea is selling long-range Scud missiles to Middle East countries, such as Syria, Iran, and Libya.

In an interview with an Israeli radio station, Ambassador Asher expressed worry by saying that Israel has had a bad experience with North Korea, which is selling dangerous Scud missiles to Middle East countries.

Ambassador Asher pointed out that in the past Israel contacted North Korea to stop its export of weapons to the Middle East region, but realized Israel lacked the capability to persuade North Korea. He said that U.S. efforts to apply sanctions against the North take Israel's interests into account.

Malaysian Sultan's 'Secret' Visit Reported

TA1706190994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Only a handful of top political officials in Israel were party to the secret, but even they were surprised when (Tengku Abdullah), also known as Sultan Abdullah, landed in Israel on 12 June. Abdullah is the brother of the Malaysian king. He is a member of parliament and is very close to Prime Minister Mahathir. This was quite a surprise, considering that with the exception of Iran, Malaysia is—or at least was—one of the toughest nuts for Israel to crack.

Malaysia is a Muslim country with a population of approximately 20 million. There is no Jewish community. The capital is Kuala Lumpur. The supreme ruler is King Muhibbuddin. Longstanding Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed, who is second in command, is the country's real strongman.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry's semiofficial representative was expelled from Malaysia back in 1966. Since then, there has been no contact whatsoever between the two countries, and Malaysia's leadership has adopted a vehemently hostile anti-Israeli and overtly anti-Semitic line. Malaysia's rulers recognized the State of Palestine back in the 1980's and established close relations with Iran. They declared that Malaysia would never make peace with Israel, even if the Arabs did. When former President Herzog visited neighboring Singapore, Malaysia recalled its ambassador from that country and almost severed diplomatic relations with it. Even the movie Schindler's List, which is about the Holocaust, was banned as Jewish propaganda.

The brother of the Malaysian ruler arrived in Israel accompanied by a Jewish businessman, who served as a mediator. There is no doubt that Sultan Abdullah's visit was undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the Malaysian leadership. On Sunday, the Malaysian official met with the foreign minister before Mr. Peres flew abroad. On 14 June, the Malaysian official met with Prime Minister Rabin. He left Israel yesterday after touring the country between meetings. Despite the veil of total secrecy surrounding the matter, we have learned that Malaysia is already expressing readiness in principle to establish business and economic ties with Israel. Once sufficient progress is made in the peace process, diplomatic ties will follow.

This is one of the most succulent pieces of fruit Israel has reaped from the agreement with the Palestinians so far, along with the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican. There is significant economic potential here, which goes far beyond the breaching of yet another fanatical Muslim wall of hostility. Although Malaysia has sacrificed democracy and civil rights in exchange for political stability, it has achieved an incredible level of economic prosperity. Its economy is growing at a tremendous rate with no unemployment, and its natural resources guarantee a rosy future. It goes without saying that when asked, all the Israeli officials who played a role in this affair refused to make any comment.

Parliamentarian Assails Unilateral Israel Talks

JN1906134694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] London—Tujan al-Faysal, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, has assailed the unilateral tendency in the negotiations with Israel.

In an interview with the London-based Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAH, published today, she emphasized that Jordan's interest lies in coordination with Syria and Lebanon.

Answering a question on whether Jordan is heading for a final agreement with Israel apart from Syria and Lebanon, she said: What I understood from the details of the closed parliamentary session—in which these issues were discussed and from which I was absent—is that the Jordanian Government is showing reservations about the subject of comprehensive coordination, and of course I am opposed to this position.

She asked: Where is reason, logic, and interest when we opt for coordination with Israel and the Palestinian entity and ignore coordination with Syria and Lebanon?

Officials Discuss King's Upcoming Visit to U.S.

Al-'Anani on Visit, Peace Talks

NC1906070994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, in Washington, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] Dr. Jawad, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you.

[Al-Aswad] Let us begin with His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington. What will be the main topics of his discussions with the American officials?

[Al-'Anani] His Majesty King Husayn came to the United States for the medical checkup he undergoes every six months. Thank God, the results of the checkup were excellent. It is customary for his majesty to meet with senior U.S. officials during these medical visits. The current visit comes after reaching an agreement with the Israelis on border demarcation and fair water sharing. In light of these recent developments on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track, the visit acquires particular importance.

[Al-Aswad] There have recently been intensive Jordanian-Israeli contacts in Washington. As you said, the talks resulted in the signing of an economic agreement involving several projects. How far have you gone in the subject of border demarcation?

[Al-'Anani] The agreement reached two weeks ago provided for the formation of specialized technical subcommittees within a higher committee of technicians that will work in the field to demarcate the border, divide the water, and work out security measures. This will begin in July.

[Al-Aswad] So, the news about an agreement on the demarcation of the Jordanian-Israeli border is true. Is this a departure from the known Jordanian principles concerning the peace process?

[Al-'Anani] Not at all. We are still committed to the joint agenda signed on 14 September 1993. We have never departed from that agenda. Moreover, we have not reached a final agreement. We have agreed to start border demarcation and water sharing. This does not mean the issue is over. We have only started actual field work, and we still have some way to go to reach an agreement on border demarcation. Technical field work must be done before we can say that we have reached an agreement.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. Jawad, how do you view the future of the peace process on the Jordanian-Israeli track and on the other negotiating tracks?

[Al-'Anani] Our position is clear. We want coordination with all the Arab sides and we would like to see progress on all tracks. His majesty will stress the need for progress on all tracks because we believe that partial peace is unstable peace; it is not lasting, comprehensive, or just. This is the point we are going to stress here in the United States.

[Al-Aswad] But is the border demarcation agreement progress that leaves the Syrian-Israeli track behind?

[Al-'Anani] No. As you remember, in all the meetings of the Arab cordon states in Beirut, Amman, Cairo, and Damascus it was stressed that it is possible for one track to move faster that the others, but there should be coordination and all sides must agree to the final results. In fact, as you know, all tracks are mobile; no track is fully dormant, neither the Palestinian nor the Syrian. But the results depend on the subjects being discussed. If progress is made on any of the tracks, especially the Jordanian track, we believe it will positively affect progress on other tracks. This is especially true since the Jordanians obtained an Israeli recognition that the cease-fire border is not the permanent one. The exchange of land for peace is the deal sought by all the Arab parties, especially since they all proceed from Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for the return of the land in exchange for peace.

[Al-Aswad] Can we say that an agreement on a peace treaty with Israel is now imminent or expected in the foreseeable future?

[Al-'Anani] I do not think so. I believe that we made a step toward that development, but we still have a long way to go before achieving it, especially if we read the items on the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda. The discussions of some subjects have not started yet.

[Al-Aswad] What are these subjects, Dr. Jawad?

[Al-'Anani] For example, the refugees and the achievement of comprehensive agreements on all tracks.

[Al-Aswad] Thank you, Dr. Jawad.

[Al-'Anani] You are welcome.

Further on al-'Anani Comments

JN1906190994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said His Majesty King Husayn will concentrate during the summit meeting he will have with U.S. President Bill Clinton next Wednesday on the peace process and its future in the Middle East, and recognition of the importance of the Jordanian role in this process.

In a statement today, he said his majesty will also discuss issues that contribute to enabling Jordan to carry out its role in the peace process in a manner that guarantees just and comprehensive peace on all fronts.

He said the Jordanian side has carried out several preparatory meetings with U.S. officials, and that it is clear that there is great recognition of Jordan's importance and its role in the region. He added that the Jordanian officials want His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to be of clear importance in terms of its results on the direct relations between the two countries, and on bolstering the peace process, especially since next month will witness the beginning of the Jordanian-Israeli technical meetings in the region on the demarcation of borders, water sharing of the Jordan and al- Yarmuk Rivers in accordance with the just shares of the parties, and the agreement on security measures.

Dr. al-'Anani said that, in his news conference next Tuesday, His Majesty King Husayn will explain the latest developments in the peace process and the Jordanian position on this process, especially that progress on the Jordanian track is in the interest of the peace process on all tracks.

Ambassador to U.S. Previews Visit

JN1906195294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani said his majesty the king's summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Wednesday [22 June] will focus on the Middle East process and its future. The king begins talks with U.S. officials in Washington tomorrow ahead of his summit with the American President.

Murid Hammad in Washington asked Jordan's Ambassador Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah about the king's talks:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] It is a continuation of the bilateral considerations, and also of course to exchange views and consultations on the regional developments, and in particular the peace process, and basically the recent developments in the Jordanian track, and also the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the accord that was signed therein. And of course we have, as you know, announced the formation of the joint political and economic bilateral commission. And hopefully, that there will be a first meeting of this commission, will be launched this week.

[Hammad] What is the nature of the commission? What kind of topics and issues would it tackle?

[Al-Tarawinah] It's purely bilateral, and political and economic considerations. And it is purely a bilateral commission. And the objective basically is to enhance the bilateral relations that are improved tremendously as compared to what three years ago. Of course, there will be always a linkage with the developments in our region, but the American participation in the peace process as a cosponsor in the bilaterals, the multilaterals...they are full participants in the trilateral economic committee that we had, but this is a purely bilateral commission that takes into consideration the political and economic matters with the objective of improving and enhancing these relations. [end recording]

Israeli Planes Attack Iqlim al-Tuffah Region

NC1906092094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes attacked the Iqlim al-Tuffah region in the south at 1125 today, targeting Mlita and al-Luwayzah with two successive raids. Israeli warplanes continue to fly over the area.

Israeli warplanes fired four air-to-surface missiles on Mlita Hill at 1110. The Lebanese Army opened fire on the planes. The Israeli air raids were accompanied and preceded by intensive air activity over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

At 1105 the warplanes fired two rockets on Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The air raids have caused an atmosphere of fear and panic among the citizens, who have remained in their homes. There are no reports of casualties yet. Only material damage has been done.

IDF Spokesman: Hizballah Targets Hit

TA1906174994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Air Force planes today attacked Hizballah targets at the Jabal Safi area in southern Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that the pilots reported accurate hits of the targets. It was reported from Lebanon that at least three terrorists were hurt in this attack. [passage omitted]

Army Issues Directorate on Deployment Operations

NC1806085294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Lebanese Army units continue to be deployed in specific areas in [Jabal Lubnan]. Military sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the deployment process will continue for three days. They said that approximately 8,000 officers and personnel from the 3d, 6th, 10th, and 11th brigades and the 3d intervention regiment have been deployed in several villages beginning from Qabb Ilyas.

The Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate issued the following statement:

Within the framework of implementing the council of ministers' resolutions relating to consolidating security, extending the state authority, and returning displaced people to their homes and villages, at dawn today the Lebanese Army began the final deployment operations in Jabal Lubnan from the al-Awwali river in the south and the Upper al-Matn area in the north. The objectives and tasks of this operation are to create a suitable and permanently secure atmosphere and a return to a normal life for the return of the displaced people to their homes, and to strengthen national coexistence, which is one of the main components of accord.

On this occasion, the army command calls on the citizens, both returnees and residents, to contribute to this historic event, bring about family reunions, renounce past grudges, and aspire to a prosperous future for themselves and their sons under the umbrella of security, law, and justice.

Further on Army Deployment, Objectives

NC1806102094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Communique issued by the Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate on 18 June; place not given]

[Text] Lebanese Army units have carried out the first phase of the deployment process in Jabal Luban areas to secure the return of the displaced people to their homes. The second and third phases will be completed by tomorrow evening. Army Commander General Emile Lahhud this morning inspected the forces and units taking part in the deployment and gave them directives to take care of the affairs of the citizens, both returnees and residents, to facilitate their affairs, and to create the necessary security atmosphere conducive to the safe return and brotherhood among the people.

The army's step in deploying in Jabal Lubnan and al-Shuf today was met with great satisfaction by officials and citizens, who commended the role of the army, its commander, and the units that have been deployed to towns and villages since morning. These units continue to deploy to specific areas in the Jabal Lubnan and al-Shuf areas.

Military sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the deployment process will continue for three days, today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow. They said that approximately 8,000 officers and soldiers from the 3d, 6th, 10th, 11th brigades, and the 3d intervention regiment have been deployed to several villages since dawn today. They noted that the towns and villages where the army deployed and will be deployed are: 'Ammatur, Niha, 'Ayn Zhalta, Nab' al-Safa, Ba'Ishmayh, al-Baruk, al-Knaysah, Binwati, Wadi al-Dayr, (Wadi Dayr Durit), (Wadi Bnahlayh), al-Na'imah, al- Damur, Ra's al-Harf, 'Alayh, Bhamdun, Tarshish, Bmaryam, Salima, Arsun, Kafr Him, Ra's al-Matn, Ma'asir al-Shuf, Ma'sir Bayt al-Din, Mazra'at al-Dahr, al-Jahiliyah, Brih, Batlun, al-Mtullah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Shiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Tahwitat al-Nahr, and Hammana.

These sources said that there are two main objectives in the army's mission: First to ensure the return of the displaced people to the aforesaid towns and villages under normal circumstances, and to guarantee their safety, establish security, bring about reassurance, and prevent unlawful acts and encroachment on property. Second, to offer assistance and social services to the returnees and station detachments from the engineering and signal corps and conscripts to accompany the returnees and contribute to their security and resumption of normal life.

Junblatt on Media Reportage of Army Deployment

NC1906122794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Interview with Housing Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt by unidentified correspondent on 19 June; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Junblatt] I have already explained that the Army has been present in the mountains. In agreement and coordination with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, the Army has been reinforced. However, the Lebanese media have described the matter as if the Army has entered a forbidden area. This is wrong. The Army and the internal security forces have been there. The refugees began to return last year. They will continue to return where they can with the help of the ministry and the Army.

[Correspondent] Do you consider what happened yesterday and today a reinforcement of the Army's presence?

[Junblatt] This is a new security plan. I have personally asked for some action to give assurances [to the returnees]. There are steps that have been taken by the Army for reasons only known to it. We do not deal in the Army's military affairs. However, the Army has been there. What is the reason for all this drum beating and trumpeting as if the Army has entered the Israeli- occupied south? [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Resumes Work, Receives PRC Envoy

NC1806113494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri resumed his official duties today after recovering from an indisposition over the past two days. In his mansion in Quraytim today he received the PRC ambassador to Lebanon and reviewed the situation in the region and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Government Seeks Extradition of Alleged Assassin

NC1906061694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] The files on the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najah Church and the assassination of Dany Sham'un and his family will be referred to the Judicial Council shortly. The council will set a date for the trial of the defendants now that the bills of indictment in the two cases have been issued.

Meanwhile, Lebanon is seeking the extradition of Ghassan Tuma, head of the Lebanese Forces' Intelligence Department, from the United States. Ghassan Tuma is accused of assassinating Sham'un and therefore is an important link in revealing all the implications of the case.

Afghanistan

Deputy Foreign Minister on Hekmatyar Call for Talks

BK1806142994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Kabul, June 18 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has called for preliminary peace talks, to coincide with a ceasefire and the reopening of blockaded national highways, a government official said Saturday.

Shams, the deputy foreign minister, said Hekmatyar had agreed Friday to attend a special conference to decide the future leadership of Afghanistan, but had called for a preliminary peace meeting first.

According to last year's Islamabad and Jalalabad peace accords, the terms of office of both Hekmatyar and his rival President Borhanoddin Rabbani expire on June 28.

"We need to do something before this date in order to avoid a power vacuum," Shams noted.

A senior pro-Rabbani commander, Ismael Khan, the governor of Herat Province, met with Hekmatyar outside Kabul on Thursday and invited the prime minister to attend a leaders' conference in Herat to explore ways of ending the ongoing power struggle, which has provoked steady fighting in Kabul since January 1.

"The preliminary meeting is to decide among other things about this venue, but Hekmatyar has no objection to Herat," Shams told AFP, adding that he was to meet Hekmatyar later Saturday to finalise details of the proposed preliminary meeting.

But with time running out fast, and with no announcement by Rabbani that he will step down at he end of the month, observers here said the odds were against either Hekmatyar's "preliminary" meeting or the proposed leaders' conference taking place.

Meanwhile, Kabul was quiet Saturday after heavy fighting late Friday in the south and west of the capital.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction guerrillas based in south Kabul's Darulaman Palace said they were observing a ceasefire from Saturday but reported heavy fighting Friday night between Hezb and the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami faction, which is allied to Rabbani.

To the west, near the now deserted Kabul University, the other Shiite faction, Hezb-e Wahdat, which is nominally allied to Hekmatyar, fought with pro-Rabbani troops overnight, according to residents.

Heavy weapons' fire was traded for more than eight hours, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Hekmatyar Spokesman Calls For Rabbani's Resignation

LD1806154794 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Islamabad, June 18, IRNA—A spokesman for Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) of Afghanistan Ghariburrahman Saeed [name as received] here Saturday [18 June] rejected Herat Governor Esmail Khan's proposal on Friday concerning convention of a session in Herat attended by Afghan party leaders.

Talking to IRNA in Peshawar Saturday Saeed said that convening of any seminar and participation in it would be "useless" and the sole way out of the current crisis is Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's stepping down from power.

He called on Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to end the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan by forcing Rabbani to abide by Islamabad agreement and quit power.

Based on the agreement, signed by Afghan Mojahedin groups here on March 8, 1993 in presence of representatives of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Rabbani should abandon the presidential post by June 28 or would be compelled to do so by the said countries.

Esmail Khan along with governors of 15 other Afghan provinces had launched efforts from early last week to find a solution to put an end to the differences between Afghan Mojahedin groups.

He had in his proposal called on Afghan belligerent parties to participate in a conference in Herat to explore a peace formula.

Rabbani Prepared To 'Transfer Authority,' Not Resign

BK1906121794 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Kabul, June 19 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani will not resign at the end of June but is prepared to transfer his authority to a legitimate national assembly, an official spokesman declared Sunday [19 June].

"The president is waiting for an authorised assembly to be established, to which he will deliver his authority," said presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad.

Morad rejected demands of rival faction leader Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar that Rabbani must resign at the end of June, saying the president's legitimacy rested on the Kabul grand national assembly held in December 1992.

The establishment of a transitional government to settle the two-year-long Afghan factional power struggle, which has been proposed by a peace commission based in the western provincial capital of Herat, had Rabbani's support, Morad said.

However, he said there was no contradiction between the power of the president and the power of the proposed Supreme Council to be set up in Herat.

"The president's authority is totally separate from the authority of the Supreme Council," stated Morad.

The proposed Supreme Council would set up an interim government which, within nine months, would pave the way for convocation of a grand assembly, itself responsible for drafting a constitution and deciding on the future leadership of Afghanistan.

It is to this grand assembly that Rabbani is most likely to transfer his authority, should it ever be convened, but as Hekmatyar has threatened more military action if Rabbani does not resign by June 28 the chances of the peace process working appear slim.

Neither Hekmatyar nor Rabbani have announced their intention of attending the Herat conference yet. The prime minister wants a "preliminary" meeting in Kabul first while the president would go "if the necessity existed."

Kakojan Niazi, a spokesman for the Herat-based peace commission, said it was hoped a meeting between Rabbani and Hekmatyar representatives would take place in Kabul, in order to thrash out details of the proposed Herat peace conference.

In the capital Sunday—a public holiday in observance of the Muslim religious anniversary of Ashura—there was little military activity, although locals reported continued fighting between the Shi'ite Harakat-e Eslami faction and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami in south Kabul.

Spokesman on Possible Resignation

LD1906203894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A spokesman for Afghanistan's president announced in Kabul on Sunday [19 June] that Mr. Rabbani is neither thinking of continuing to work as the president, nor he is thinking of resigning. He is rather thinking that a legal authority would be found to take a decision on the future presidency of Afghanistan. The term of office of Borhaboddin Rabbani, as the president, and Golboddin Hekmatyar, as the prime minister, should end in less than 10 days' time, on the basis of decisions made by the Islamabad and Jalalabad meetings.

At the same time a member of the mediation team from the southwestern sector of Afghanistan, Dr. Shams, whose objective is to resolve the country's crisis through peaceful means, said today that this team has carried out the second round of its mediatory talks with Rabbani and Hekmatyar on Saturday and Sunday, and it has been agreed the two sides' representatives should begin direct talks from Monday. He expressed the hope that during the first round of talks between the representatives of Afghanistan's president and prime minister, the time of cease-fire and the time of opening the routes leading to Kabul would be determined and declared.

Dr. Shams said: Almost all the leaders of Afghanistan's jihad groups have announced that they will take part at the consultative and decision-taking session of Herat; and it is very much hoped that peace would be established in Afghanistan.

India

Government Opposes Sanctions Against DPRK

BK1706152194 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1447 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Statement by official spokesman; date not given]

[TEXT] 1. We have been closely following the developments in the Korean Peninsula. We trust that all the parties concerned will exercise the maximum restraint so that peace and tranquility can be maintained in the region, and existing tensions can be eliminated.

2. We follow with great interest the current mission being undertaken by former president, Jimmy Carter of the U.S. and hope that the positive first steps which have been achieved can be further built upon.

3. India abstained on the resolution adopted by the board of governors of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] last week, our view being that punitive measures adopted in the United Nations or elsewhere could exacerbate matters at this stage, making a resolution of the issue more difficult. We hope that negotiations will continue through which a way will be found to peacefully resolve this crisis.

Iran

Velayati Says Visit to Iraq Still Scheduled

NC1806144194 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 18 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday that an Iranian delegation would visit Iraq in two weeks to prepare for his forthcoming visit, the first by a senior Iranian official since 1991.

The delegation had been due in Baghdad on June 11, but the trip was postponed at the last minute for unspecified reasons.

Velayati told AFP that the delay had been mutually agreed by upon the two countries.

But a senior Iranian official told AFP the visit had been postponed "at the request of Iraqi authorities."

The minister said he still expected to visit Baghdad in July, in the first visit to Iraq by a top Iranian official since the 1991 Gulf war.

The visit is aimed at continuing discussions to normalise ties five years after the end of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Talks resumed last October after they were broken in the wake of the Gulf war.

Tehran and Baghdad are sharply divided over a number of issues, mainly the fate of thousands of prisoners of war from both countries.

Iraq Said To Offer Alliance Against 'Common Enemies'

PM2006110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Baghdad Offers Tehran Alliance Against 'Common Enemies'"]

[Text] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraq has hinted at the possibility of making an offer to Iran regarding "a strategic alliance" against what it termed "common enemies."

The Iraqi offer is expected to be discussed in detail on the occasion of a visit to Iraq by a high-level Iranian delegation early next month. The delegation will prepare for a visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who will be the first Iranian minister to visit Iraq since 1978.

Trade and political contacts between Iran and Iraq have rapidly increased over the past 18 months following the two neighboring states' adoption of positive rapprochement when dealing with another. And it seems that Tehran is now convinced that a change in Iraq's leadership in current conditions would not serve Iran's long-term interests.

This is why Tehran is expressing its willingness to help Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to improve his position at least for the time being.

The two sides are working on a number of issues of "common interest," including the reopening of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, which will enable the Iraqi port of al-Basrah and the Iranian port of Khorramshahr to resume their activities fully.

Both Tehran and Baghdad are aspiring to secure "a legal framework" for the border trade which is rapidly growing between them and whose volume is estimated at about $1.2 billion a year. This trade is conducted mostly by smugglers, and it supplies the Iraqi market with a wide range of commodities, including food and consumer durables.

The two sides are agreed in their determination to prevent the establishment of a separate Kurdish entity in northeast Iraq.

Iranian sources say that tightening the noose around the Kurdish "safe area" in nortn Iraq has become one of Tehran's priorities. And French oil companies are putting pressure on Iraq to normalize its relations with Iran so that work can begin in rich oilfields like the Majnun islands and Nahr 'Umar.

Costs of developing these oilfields are expected to reach about $12 billion over six years. Two giant French oil companies, namely Elf-Aquitaine and Total, have reached "initial agreements" with Iraq to develop these fields. Iraq must assure investors that the state of conflict with Iran has ended in order to secure the huge capital needed for this project, as most of the main Iraqi oil wells are situated near the border with Iran.

A project currently under study is expected to export Iraqi oil via the Iranian province of Khuzestan, thus avoiding Turkish territory and Syria, which Iraq regards as an archenemy. Besides, exporting Iraqi oil via Iranian territory makes it difficult for the United States and its allies to cut off Iraqi oil exports as a means of putting pressure on Baghdad.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced yesterday that an Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation will visit Iraq "within the coming two weeks" to continue the discussions over normalizing relations between Baghdad and Tehran.

Velayati stressed that he is still hoping to go to Baghdad in July despite the delay in the Iranian mission's preparations for his visit.

Second Round of Tajik Peace Talks Opens in Tehran

Velayati Addresses Session

LD1806113594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] As announced during the news bulletin, the second round of Tajik peace talks began today in Tehran with a speech by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report on this.

[Correspondent] During the inaugural session that was held with the participation of an envoy of the United Nations secretary general, Mr. Velayati—stressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to establish a just peace in Tajikistan—considered the existence of common cultural, historical, religious, and linguistic bonds between the two nations to be an indication of their ancient ties.

Referring to the regretful crisis in Tajikistan, he stressed the need for establishing stability in the Central Asian states and said: The establishment of peace and stability in that region is one of the priorities of Iran's foreign policy with regard to the expansion of cooperation with the Central Asian states. Mr. Velayati added: We believe the resolution of the Tajik crisis to be the bright spot of regional cooperation for peaceful coexistence with regional states.

In conclusion, our country's foreign minister called for a more active participation by the world states in offering economic assistance after the establishment of peace in Tajikistan.

During the course of the session, Mr. Ramero Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's envoy at the Tajikistan peace talks, called for a more active role by international organizations, stressing the need to end the crisis in Tajikistan. He said: The realization of peace in Tajikistan will not be achieved without taking into consideration the wishes of all the parties.

Expressing his pleasure over the fact that the two sides have now realized that the only way to achieve peace is through the continuation of talks and by finding peaceful means, Mr. Ballon said: The establishment of grounds for mutual trust is one of the factors that can play a role in the promotion of the talks.

Mr. Gyurov, representative of the Tajik Government, the third speaker at the session, stressing Iran's good intentions in its past efforts in realizing peace in Tajikistan, said: We good progenies of Ferdosi and Khayyam [famous Iranian poets] and other great Farsi speakers are prepared to achieve fundamental solutions for the Tajik crisis through peaceful means in our ancestral homeland. He added: The Tajik nation is in need of stability and tranquillity today, and we hope to attain a definite result in these talks.

The last speaker at today's session was Mr. Latifi, the opposition group representative. Stressing that various dimensions of the Tajik catastrophe are still hidden, he said: International forums have only uncovered a sad corner of this regrettable tragedy. Stressing that opposition groups do not seek bloodshed, he said: We stress the territorial integrity of Tajikistan and hope the talks will bear results as soon as possible and that the Muslim people of Tajikistan will be liberated from this disaster.

Finally, the representative of the opposition forces at the peace talks thanked Iran for its pivotal role in realizing peace in Tajikistan.

Present at the second round of Tajikistan peace talks in Tehran were representative of Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the CSCE, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as heads of the diplomatic missions of foreign countries residing in Tehran.

At the end of the inaugural session, Mr. Velayati and the UN secretary general's envoy participated in a joint news conference. At that news conference, the secretary general's envoy—stressing the need for the return of stability to Tajikistan—said: We intend to create the necessary conditions for free elections by creating grounds conducive for them. He expressed the hope that the establishment of peace in Tajikistan will have positive effects on Afghan issues.

Mr. Velayati, answering a question on whether Iran will send a peacekeeping force to Tajikistan, stressed Iran's continued impartial policy regarding the Tajik crisis and said: If the United Nations makes a request to Iran, there is no obstacle in the way of sending forces to Tajikistan.

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